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SOVIET UNION

CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

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FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Council of Ministers: 6 Dead From Burns, Radiation

LD121726 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] From the USSR Council of Ministers — During the last 24 hours, work on cleaning up the radioactive pollution from the area and instaliation of the power station has significantly widened at the Chernobyl AES. Effective cooling of the damaged reactor is being carried out and encasing the core in concrete is continuing.

The radiation situation in Belorussia and the Ukraine, including in Kiev, is improving. In the areas beyond the limits of the 30km zone, agricultural work is being carried out, industrial enterprises are functioning normally, and usual tourist excursions are being made. Treatment and preventive measures are being carried out among those who suffered injuries. Thirty-five people are in serious condition. Six people suffering from burns and radiation have died.

Top Scientist: Reactor To Be Encased in Concrete

AU130958 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 13 (AFP) — A new cooling system is being installed under the exploded Chernobyl nuclear reactor, which will then be encased in concrete to protect it "for hundreds of years," a top Soviet scientist, Ivan Emelianov said Tuesday.

Mr. Emelianov is first deputy director of the Scientific Research and Construction Institute for Energy Techniques, which produces the Soviet Union's water-cooled, graphite-moderated RBMK-1000 reactors of the Chernobyl type.

At a meeting with journalists, he added that he had not ruled out a cooling-system failure as the cause of the April 26 explosion. At the same time he continued to regard RBMK-1000 nuclear reactors as "extremely reliable."

"My opinion on this point has not changed ... we will undoubtedly continue to use graphite reactors, which are in no way inferior to other types of reactor." But it would be advisable to re-examine existing "security means" and to envisage additional measures in this respect, Mr. Emelianov said.

The concrete casing would be installed at Chernobyl to prevent any future leak of radioactive material, as it would be "hundreds of years" before the most dangerous such materials were neutralised.

These were notably cesium, cobalt, and xenon. The RBMK-1000 reactor contained 192 tonnes of uranium and 1,700 tonnes of graphite, but it was impossible to know how much of the graphite had burned at Chernobyl, Mr. Emelianov added.

Mr. Emelianov, a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, did not express a view on whether human error could have been behind the recent accident. He stressed that RBMK-1000 reactors had a series of automatic alarm and security systems, designed to prevent such errors, even "the most gross."

The possibility of a failure in the water cooling system could not be ruled out, he said.

The government enquiry commission, which was continuing its work, would have to make a "minute study" of the facts assembled, before pronouncing on the accident causes. Mr. Emelianov said he was convinced the situation at Chernobyl was now "clearly" the right side of the critical point.

Helicopter Flights Continue Over Chernobyl

LD121650 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 12 May 86

[Aleksandr Krutov report from "The Area of the Chernobyl AES;" from the "Vremya" newscast — recorded]

[Text] Helicopters take off from this small meadow and fly off in the direction of the Chernobyl atomic power station, a flight of 14 km. [video shows helicopter taking off; another is seen on the ground] The aim of this flight is to collect air over the reactor. Beneath us is the neighborhood of the station. When you see it from above, the green villages with their apple blossoms, it is hard to imagine that it is dangerous below. This is indicated, however, by the lack of people in the streets and the deserted roads.

The pilots' route is regulated [vyveren]. Since the day of the accident, they have carried out several hundred flights here in order to block off the damaged reactor, for this could only be done from the air. The work was very difficult, because next door in the neighboring units, people were carrying out the necessary operations at the other reactors.

High standards were shown by Air Force officers (Serebryakov), (Yakovlev), (Telegin), (Voytko) and many, many others. The first day 93 drops were made, the second 186, and all of them with 100 percent accuracy.

[Video shows aerial views of village, with houses and fields, and then of power station, showing undamaged reactors and closer up view of damaged one; other shots of the whole plant]

Now you can see the bags they drop. They are packed in packets like this. In the bags are dolomite powder, sand, and lead. As the helicopters hover over the reactor, the bag are thrown into it. This is done to lower the temperature in the reactor and lessen the danger of radioactive emissions. The work is now continuing, and specialists and scientists believe that the situation has been stabilized. Now other pilots are working. The first ones have done their duty, and have been sent off for rest and medical examination. [Video shows helicopter landing in the same meadow; it is painted with camouflage paint and has a large "60" painted on its side. The described bags are lying in a heap on the ground near Krutov. In the background airmen seem to be putting sacks into white plastic covers. There is a close-up of an airman checking the wheel of the helicopter with what appears to be a Geiger counter. Another helicopter is visible in the background. A group of four pilots is seen getting into a helicopter with a "50" painted on its side]

[Video then cuts to show Krutov inside a helicopter, talking to the pilot, who is identified as V.I. Surkov by screen caption. Another man is also in the cockpit. None are in protective clothing]

[Krutov] Tell me, do you have to make flights often?

[Surkov] Well, we make flights when we have to. Many are needed, however, so that is how many we do. The situation itself dictates to us how many flights to make.

[Krutov] Well, what is the work like then? Is it dangerous?

[Surkov] Well, at the present stage the work is not dangerous because there are (?changes for the better). So our work is full of confidence.

[Video cuts to meeting where tactics are being discussed]

[Krutov] Today the helicopter pilots are discussing a new task. It is essential to lower the load directly onto the reactor. [Video shows uniformed pilots standing around, while two civilians and a man in military uniform pore over a plan of the plant. One civilian appears to be outlining what to do, while the other agrees with him]

[Krutov] So, the rehearsal of the upcoming operation has started. The task is not a simple one. There is not even a meter's leeway, especially because time is short, as the operation will be carried out in a zone of high radiation. That's it! The load has been dropped. [Video shows helicopter maneuvering to drop a bag onto a pile of other ones, while the organizers look on]

[G.A. Kuznetsov, commander of the squadron — identified from screen caption] The helicopter is hovering at about 270 meters. We carried out the transport on a (?suspended rope) and put the load down exactly at the right place. Of course the task was rather difficult, but we managed it successfully. [video ends with another shot of a hovering helicopter]

Red Lead Brought to Chernobyl for AES Work

LD121142 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Two convoys of vehicles of the Yaroslavlavtotrans Association have left Yaroslavl for Chernobyl. They are delivering more than 700 tons of red lead, a material intended for restoration work at the Chernobyl AES.

The best drivers of the town's enterprises were called up to deliver the responsible freight.

More Than 90,000 Reportedly Evacuated From Area

LD101325 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1200 GMT 10 May 86

[Excerpt] MTI correspondent Laszlo Fazekas has toured the vicinity of Kiev and has learned that a little more than 90,000 people had to be evacuated from the Chernobyl region. Prior to the accident the No 4 reactor block was prepared for maintenance work, and the block was working with an output of only 200 megawatt instead of the usual 1,000 megawatt capacity.

Izrael on Environmental Effects of Accident

PM121820 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 May 86 First Edition p 3

[Report by TASS special correspoondents V. Zhukovskiy, V. Itkin, and L. Chernenko: "Always Remember: The Atom Is Two-Faced!"]

[Text] Kiev — May time is beautiful in Kiev! The chestnuts are in blossom, the lilac is giving off its fine scent, and the acacias are coming into flower. When looking at the spring splendor of nature you feel particularly acutely the misfortune which unexpectedly occurred near here. How has the Chernobyl AES accident affected the nature of this fertile land? What is being done to eliminate its consequences and prevent pollution of the environment? TASS special correspondents put these questions to Yuriy Antoniyevich Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometerology and Environmental Control, who is currently in Kiev.

A certain quantity of radioactive substances escaped into the atmosphere at the time of the accident. This is a small proportion of what had accumulated in the reactor during the period it was in operation, he said. The leak of radioactive gases and volatile substances lasted several days and was linked with the high temperature in the reactor zone. This temperature has now fallen sharply. The leak of radioactivity has practically ceased.

An increase in the level of radiation in any areas is now ruled out.

The radioactivity in the atmosphere has dispersed. On the surface of the land it remains only in individual places directly adjacent to the Chernobyl AES. The level of radiation here has reached 10-15 milliroentgens per hour. It is now several times less as a result of decay. Although, in accordance with national and international norms recommended by the IAEA, the doses accumulating here were within limits permissible for the population in the event of accidents at AES's; nevertheless, a decision to evacuate them from a 30-km zone was taken to ensure people's complete safety and health. A slight increase in the level of background radiation was observed in a number of cities both in the Ukraine and in Belorussia. In Kiev this level totaled 0.3-0.4 milliroentgens per hour, which poses no threat to health. A negligible proportion of small radioactive particles were carried great distances by air currents and reached the territory of Poland, Romania, and a number of Scandinavian countries. A slight increase in background radioactivity, also posing no danger to the population, was observed here.

It was noted at the 8 May CPSU Central Committee Politburo meeting that the commission and local party and soviet organs are expeditiously taking the necessary measures to overcome the consequences of the accident. A great deal of work to prevent any damage from radioactive pollution is being done in the zone of the Chernobyl AES and the adjacent locality. In particular, barriers are being erected along the banks of the Pripyat River

to rule out or reduce the possible seepage of any proportion of dangerous substances into it. In this zone organs of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control and other departments are carrying out a big program of measurements and studies with a view to studying radioecological influences and effects.

In connection with the fact that an increase in soil radioactivity has been observed in the zone adjacent to the Chernobyl AES, the limits of agricultural work have been strictly demarcated. But beyond the limits of the 30-km zone work of this kind is carrying on normally.

The quality of drinking water is being constantly monitored. Regular samples are being taken from the Kiev reservoir. The results of numerous observations show that the established radioactivity norms are not being exceeded here.

In the course of the identification of the isotope composition of the radioactive substances emitted from the damaged reactor, a number of isotopes were detected, including Iodine-131, which is dangerous in that it can enter the human organism from food. The half-life of this isotope is 8 days. Strict monitoring of its level has been instituted. The quality of milk is being checked in particular. The checks are carried out twice — in the livestock units and at dairy plants.

The country's meteorological stations are constantly observing the radioactivity level. For this the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control is also using specially equipped aircraft and helicopters. Continuous analysis of the results obtained is being carried out in scientific research institutes. Agreement has been reached on the regular transfer of data on background radiation from one of the stations of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Service Administration near the Chernobyl AES to the IAEA.

What has happened at the Chernobyl AES compels us yet again to give thought to the tremendous forces linked with atomic energy. Even in peaceful utilization, this energy requires exceptional control. Even negligible radioactivity getting into the environment can become a source of great misfortune. But its scale could be immeasurable unless the gigantic nuclear arsenals of weapons are completely destroyed. Even the very possibility of the appearance in the environment of the enormous radioactivity caused by nuclear explosions is totally impermissible. This is antinatural, both for nature and for man.

The Soviet program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is the only realistic way to rid mankind of the threat hanging over his existence, over nature, and over the entire planet, Yu.A. Izrael stressed. You can now understand particularly keenly how vitally important and necessary is the struggle for the complete elimination of nuclear military arsenals, how necessary is peaceful cooperation among scientists and specialists from various countries in deepening experience of the peaceful utilization of the atom and in further understanding its secrets.

Izrael, Legasov Interviewed

LD121611 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1517 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 12 May (TASS) — *IZVESTIYA* today published the answers of two eminent Soviet specialists from the headquarters for the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES, to questions from its own correspondent.

Academician Valeriy Legasov, deputy director of the Moscow "Kurchatov" Atomic Energy Institute, said: "The reactor has lost its criticality; it is not creating radioactivity. But as is known, radioactivity did escape, and today intensive work is being carried out aimed initially at reducing it, and ultimately at totally eliminating it. The accident was localized, but there is still a lot of work, and it is being carried out in most unusual, and let's be frank, difficult conditions. But even so, we are coping."

Yuriy Izrael, corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and chairman of the USSR Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, noted: "The country's meteorological stations are constantly and intensively monitoring the level of radioactivity. For this the State Committee for Hydrometeorology is using specially equipped aeroplanes and helicopters, and other machinery. Our scientific-research institutes are constantly analyzing data received. As has already been reported, accords have been reached on the regular transmission to the IAEA of data on background radiation from one of the stations of the Ukrainian Directorate of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology, situated close to Chernobyl.

DER SPIEGEL Interviews NOVOSTI's Falin on Accident

DW121241 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 12 May 86 pp 139-143

[Interview with NOVOSTI board chairman Valentin Falin, by correspondent Andreas Lorenz in Moscow, no date given]

[Text] *SPIEGEL*: Mr Falin, when did the NOVOSTI chief learn about the reactor accident in Chernobyl?

Falin: I knew on Sunday that something had happened in the Ukraine. There was a Politburo meeting on Monday at which a detailed report of the investigating commission, which had been appointed Saturday, was discussed.

SPIEGEL: When was General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev informed?

Falin: On Saturday, the question only being to what extent.

SPIEGEL: The super-GAU [groesster anzunehmender unfall — worst-case scenario] in Chernobyl was followed by a super-GAU in information policy. Why did it take so long for other countries to be informed about the accident and the concomitant dangers?

Falin: Super-GAU is your choice of words. What you wish to regard as long or not is relative. What is considered long in this

particular case was not considered remarkable in similar cases. Take the breakdown of the U.S. reactor at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg. There, the Senate received the initial reports only 10 days later. And the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna received the first report about 2 months later. To help you to assess our situation objectively, it is necessary for us to bear in mind that the first reports from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant management were incomplete and ultimately turned out to be incorrect.

SPIEGEL: Did the local authorities underrate the dangers?

Falin: No, not the local authorities, but the technicians at the station. As so often happens, the people believed, with the best of intentions, that they could get the situation under control. Meanwhile, they were not fully aware of the extent of the accident. The breakdown occured in stages. Had they acted in the best possible way in the first few minutes...

SPIEGEL: What happened in the first few minutes?

Falin: What happened was a chemical explosion in the reactor, the cause of which has as yet not been determined. It takes time to determine what really happened. A situation emerged that had not been envisaged in the emergency procedures. It seems at the moment that the technicians acted inconsistently and that their decisions were not always the best.

SPIEGEL: Was carelessness involved?

Falin: No, it was probably more an underrrating of the hazard and an overrating of their own capabilities. There are always several choices in a critical situation. This time they did not pick the best one. Initially, they could have kept the damage within limits, just about in the way it has been done in other countries. When the developing situation overtasked the technicians, the situation grew worse. That is why some measures were taken too late. That is how it is in life. In the end, all of us are wiser.

SPIEGEL: Hence, it was known in Moscow on Saturday that a large-scale breakdown had taken place. Consequently, the criticism by the Scandinavian countries that they were informed too late is justified.

Falin: As far as I know, a neighboring country was informed.

SPIEGEL: Which one?

Falin: A very closely situated country. It was safe to assume that this country might be affected by radioactive fallout. Besides, we must bear in mind that no danger prevailed at any time for any of our European neighbors to be affected by a mass of radioactive substances such that people would be harmed. The level of radioactive pollution was smaller than the dose absorbed by a man during an X-ray examination.

SPIEGEL: Was that already clear at that time?

Falin: It was clear there was no nuclear explosion at Chernobyl. It was clear that merely steam with radioactive aerosol was billowing from the reactor. I do not want to play down what happened, nor the dangers. I personally advocate the earliest possible information, if only protectively. I believe that more information is better than less information, even though many dangers lurk in that, too. Experience shows that such information can well be misused for various purposes.

SPIEGEL: The Scandinavian countries were told on Monday afternoon, meaning long after the accident, that nothing had happened.

Falin: I can neither confirm nor deny your information. I do not know whom the Scandinavians approached. It may be that it was addressed to low-level officials only.

SPIEGEL: The result is an enormous, worldwide loss of prestige for the Soviet Union. Many states have the impression that Moscow again wishes to hide something. Does the Soviet Union never learn?

Falin: I do not want to play eye-for-eye politics; but for the sake of truth, we must make a comparison to assess the situation objectively. The West is applying a much stricter yardstick where the Soviet Union is involved. Take the 1957 breakdown in Great Britain. The radioactive consequences of that accident were felt in the Federal Republic and in Norway. There was no stir, no particular debate. British authorities were not particularly liberal with information for the press and for other countries.

SPIEGEL: That was a different era. At that time nuclear tests were still conducted above ground. The people had a different relationship with the atom. One ought to have learned in the meantime.

Falin: Fair enough. Take the case of Three Mile Island. That was in 1979. By then, there was some experience. Yet it took the Americans at least three times as long as the Soviet Union to supply the required information.

SPIEGEL: In that case, other countries were not affected.

Falin: Do not be too sure. Canada was affected.

SPIEGEL: The character of the accident was different.

Falin: To this day, the people have not been informed about the real extent of the accident. As many as 70,000 people lived in Harrisburg at the time. Even the personnel of the station did not have an idea about the situation, and, according to U.S. experts, the radioactive pollution was greater than that following a nuclear explosion. Besides, it was noted that 1.7 million liters of radioactive water flowed into the Susquehanna River.

A list of various accidents in the nucler energy field shows that we are not among the worst. If you ask the International Atomic Energy Agency, which most accurately details everything that happens, you will learn that the Soviet Union is not among the stragglers. We are given the highest marks, whereas the Americans are not among the best.

SPIEGEL: Let us stay with Chernobyl...

Falin: In retrospect, with the advantage of hindsight, it would seem that it would have been better to publish on Sunday the information we published Monday.

SPIEGEL: It was a meager eight-line report by TASS.

Falin: It was a terse public notice. I think there was a longer announcement to some of the countries affected.

SPIEGEL: Evidently not. Your ambassador in Bonn, Yuliy Kvitsinskiy, merely submitted a brief government communique to the Federal Government.

Falin: Probably not all ambassadors received the information, only the ambassadors in neighboring countries.

SPIEGEL: The belated information has harmed the credibility of the Soviet Government, including that of General Secretary Gorbachev. Western politicians are wondering how you can trust a man who calls for cooperation in many fields but himself fails to comply when the occasion arises.

Falin: The general secretary had to have information first before he could supply it. I stress once again: The first objective, detailed information was received by the general secretary prior to the Monday meeting of the Politburo. Let us leave the general secretary out of it. For such questions, we need the experts.

SPIEGEL: The West still needs more detailed information about the accident; for example, how much radioactivity was released and how many of the isotopes are long-lived like plutonium. Such data is required for corresponding precautionary measures.

Falin: The situation is serious enough. Speculation will not get us anywhere. In order to provide you with adequate information we ourselves must first have such data. That requires surveys directly at the scene of the accident. There is no sense in puzzling over what has and has not happened.

Today, the following must be stated: About 50 percent of the isotopes released are relatively dangerous, albeit short-lived, isotopes — Iodine 131, then Iodine 132. As far as Cesium 137 and Strontium 90 are concerned, their share in the mission is, by current analyses, 10-100 times smaller compared to earlier man-made emissions. The number of isotopes carried beyond the border of the Soviet Union, which have raised the natural quantity of radioactivity by 10-15 times, is not dangerous. An underground nuclear explosion releases much greater quantities of such substances. If, following a nuclear test in the Nevada desert, the wind blows south, the effects of that test can be sensed in Mexico. It is generally not reported because the Americans are involved.

SPEIGEL: The attacks by Soviet media against speculation by Western politicians and media look like diversionary maneuvers.

Falin: I strongly object to that. There is indignation about the method with which public authorities in the West are handling the whole matter.

SPIEGEL: Give some names.

Falin: I mean the U.S. Administration, primarily government spokesmen. I mean Secretary of State Shultz.

SPIEGEL: Shultz made relatively moderate statements.

Falin: One could take it from his answers that the Soviet Union had acted relatively irresponsibly. Now West European mass media are saying that Soviet society is barbarian and one cannot do anything with it. The undertone of all these commentaries was about the same: How can one hold responsible negotiations on arms control with such a country if such things can happen? Actually, that was the real substance of most commentaries.

SPIEGEL: Lack of information was the reason for the indignation.

Falin: I repeat: One can realize lack and abundance only by comparison. It cannot be that different criteria are applied to different countries. Otherwise, everything bad that happens in our country gives someone pleasure — the neighbor's cow has died, a small but pleasant surprise. Where did you get the figure of 2,000 dead? It was pulled from the air. From what sources did it come?

SPIEGEL: They were estimates by Western scientists which were created in a vacuum of information. They assumed how many people could possibly die in the future because of radiation.

Falin: One cannot act that way in international relations. You just cook up something. We know such scientists as Mr Adelman. (Kenneth Adelman is head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.) His way of counting shows 20 times more missiles than we actually have. It is merely the Pentagon's way of getting a bigger budget.

You in the West would be well advised not to exploit the knee-jerk reaction of your audience. What do you in the West write now? Chernobyl is located near Kiev. However, it is located 130 km from Kiev. Nuclear power plants in the FRG are located an average of 10-30 km from big cities, which is really close. Unfortunately, however, you do not act in any other way.

SPIEGEL: It is said in our country that Soviet power plants are not safe enough to be located so close to cities.

Falin: Ask the International Atomic Energy Agency. They know better than most Western journalists write.

SPIEGEL: The Finns have built additional containment buildings and emergency generators onto Soviet nuclear power plants.

Falin: Just a moment; that is not quite correct. A plant was built in Finland before containment norms existed. When the Americans and the Germans set norms, the project was changed. We also have such containments at our plants.

SPIEGEL: Not at Chernobyl.

Falin: But we have them in many other cases. Chernobyl is considered one of the safest stations in the world.

SPIEGEL: It isn't any longer.

Falin: Certainly. Scientists and engineers said that Chernobyl was the best one could build. However, not just technology plays a role here, but also the discipline of the personnel. If you analyze world atomic accidents, you will find that about 70 percent of them have been caused not by technology itself, but by human failure.

SPIEGEL: At Chernobyl too?

Falin: That is one of the main presumptions.

SPIEGEL: Is it correct that reactors of the same type have been shut down in your country in the meantime for safety reasons?

Falin: They continue to operate, but they are being examined.

SPIEGEL: Is everything tight now?

Falin: Yes.

SPIEGEL: However, sand is still being dropped on it.

Falin: Sand, lead, and boron are necessary to make the insulation even safer. Later, everything will be encased in concrete.

SPIEGEL: Can you say anything about the actual number of victims?

Falin: A man was cremated. Another was buried under structural parts that toppled on him. Of the 18 severely injured people, 2 have died in the meantime.

At the moment we are careful in our statements about the consequences of pollution. You know, each person has a different susceptibility to radioactivity. I am now saying a bit more than I am perhaps allowed to say: Medical people reckon that the president of the Academy of Sciences, Anatoly Aleksandrov, was hit with a deadly dose of radioactivity twice in his life, at a time when people still did not recognize the danger. His predecessor at the Institute for Nuclear Energy, Igor Kurchatov, was in a similar situation and, alas, he died.

SPIEGEL: The number of injured people was said at a press briefing to be 204.

Falin: Of those, roughly 50 were released after a few hours. The others needed in-patient treatment, bone marrow surgery, blood transfusions, and so forth. What is important is that children are under particularly intensive care because they are primarily threatened. Everyone in the danger zone has been registered in a card file and will be examined at regular intervals, first weekly, then monthly, then at yearly intervals.

SPIEGEL: It sounds very much like playing down the consequences. How many dead do you expect in the future?

Falin: Out of every 1,000 people who are exposed to a radiation of 100 rad, theoretically cancer occurs in 20 cases. But the number of people that suffered during the accident is much smaller; so far those 204 cases you mentioned have been hit by more than 100 rad.

SPIEGEL: People in the West are astounded not only about the external information policy but also about the sparse news for the USSR's own citizens. Would it not have been an opportunity to put into practice the demand by General Secretary Gorbachev for more openness?

Falin: Technically, you are right. But allow me to ask you some questions in return: To what extent are you familiar with accidents in nuclear power plants in your area in the past 10 years? Can you state that off the cuff?

SPIEGEL: What does that have to do with openness?

Falin: Quite a lot. The Western press remains silent in most cases. In Gundremmingen in 1975, two people were killed by overheated radioactive steam. In 1978, a pipe socket broke in Brunsbuettel; radioactive steam escaped into the engine room and, in part, into the atmosphere.

SPIEGEL: You have that from the Western press, however.

Falin: Not necessarily. That we have, for instance, from the International Atomic Energy Agency. There were also cases in Belgium in 1978. In Japan in 1981, 40 tons of radioactive water flowed into a bay, which to this day is blocked off. Radiation affected 270 people, more than in our case. In the U.S. State of Oklahoma, a man died this year because of an explosion of radioactive gas; more than 100 people were injured. In Sellafield, in Great Britain, radioactive matter escaped four times, six people injured, and so forth. But we are said to be a big case.

SPIEGEL: These accidents cannot be compared with Chernobyl. Now all of Europe is affected by the fallout. Allow us to repeat the question: Was the information to Soviet citizens not a bit too thin? It was only 10 days later that Kiev citizens were warned against eating vegetables and staying outdoors too long.

Falin: People in the West like very much to rack their brains about our worries. Let us not go into what is behind this concern. I say this: There was not enhanced radioactivity in Moscow. I can state that authentically because NOVOSTI has a measuring station of its own. As for Kiev, the situation was such — and that might mitigate your outrage — that the wind at first blew the radioactive clouds northward. The wind changed 5 days later. Radioactivity in Kiev increased. But it grew to 30 times its normal rate and yet remained 500 times lower than the hazard level. The recommendation you mentioned was given at that particular time. Besides, the danger zone around Chernobyl was extended from 30 to 50 km. By Thursday 84,000 people had been evacuated from that zone.

SPIEGEL: Radioactivity was also found in the Baltic states and in Belorussia — but no information for the people.

Falin: Do not be so sure that there was none, if only because on Sunday, 27 April, 30,000 people were evacuated from the town of Pripyat and taken elsewhere. Those are the best indicators.

SPIEGEL: The people in the Baltic states and in Belorussia wonder about the consequences of the accident for themselves and what they can do to protect themselves.

Falin: If there is no danger in Minsk and in the Baltic states, is it really necessary to urge the people to feel endangered?

SPIEGEL: The Poles have measured increased ratings and taken certain precautionary measures. The citizens were informed by the government spokesman. At the same time, all was quiet in the Soviet Union in the vicinity of the accident site.

Falin: There is a difference. The Poles took the measures protectively because they proceeded from the premise that it could become worse. They said: We do it to play safe. On Monday reports in Moscow said that the situation was under control.

SPIEGEL: A very vague formulation.

Falin: The West claims that there was a fire in the reactor lasting several days, even though its active phase was over after several hours.

SPIEGEL: We were not informed. Were you not trying to play the thing down for your own people?

Falin: No. As for the government, there has been no attempt to play the matter down. In addition, no country is in a position to keep such matters secret. That is just impossible.

SPIEGEL: Should you not have said to your citizens that something was amiss and that they should not let their children play in the sand? That was said in the Federal Republic, for instance.

Falin: Such a thing is only done in the West if something has happened in the East.

SPIEGEL: People are extremely worried. They are leaving Kiev because they anticipate consequences for their children.

Falin: Please do not exaggerate. There were many overreactions after the schools were temporarily closed and precautionary measures were recommended regarding the consumption of fresh milk and vegetables. There can be no talk of an evacuation of the city.

SPIEGEL: But now omissions of recent years should be made good and the Soviet people should be better informed about the risks of nuclear power plants.

Falin: Please do not create the impression that our people are not informed.

SPIEGEL: That is exactly the impression we have.

Falin: Without gloating, we have objectively reported on a number of such incidents abroad: on Harrisburg, accidents in Japan, and so forth. If the Soviet people read that and live in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant, they will have their own ideas.

SPIEGEL: The Soviet Union has so far argued that an accident could only happen under capitalism, because security was neglected there in the interests of profits.

Falin: Do not make us appear so primitive. We only say that such a thing also happens in the West. Regarding risks, there is for the moment the danger of unforeseen events such as what happened at Chernobyl, not from leaks or fallout. The danger of leaks is much smaller in nuclear power plants than it is in coal power plants.

SPIEGEL: So, in the future there will be no discussion on the risks of nuclear power plants either?

Falin: There will be a discussion. I assume that a detailed report including conclusions and an assessment of what happened will be published. That will be the stuff for constant discussion. One thing is clear, however: We in the East and the West cannot continue to live a normal life without that technology.

There will always be some danger. People have the urgent task to keep that danger so small as to make it purely theoretical. I do not doubt that information is important for the people. However, in the final analysis, the question of whether a technology is safe is not decided by discussion but by exchanges between engineers and scientistis.

SPIEGEL: A question to the experienced propagandist: Would Chernobyl not have been an opportunity to implement more openness as demanded by Gorbachev, and thereby to show the citizens more confidence?

Falin: A new quality of openness cannot be achieved overnight. I do not want to play down the matter and belittle what happened. Something bad happened unexpectedly. We were not mentally prepared for such an event. Basically, we had no precautionary instructions, including in the field of information. Much was done offhand, including information.

The fact that part of the service personnel in Chernobyl failed is a problem per se, if only because the quantity and content of information reaching Moscow were neither sufficient nor correct. As a result, much of what happened subsequently was preordained. We must draw substantial lessons from all that.

The best thing would be for those countries dealing with nuclear energy to draw up rules that are valid for all in case of accidents. There should not be different standards for the Americans or us, for example.

SPIEGEL: Mr Falin, we thank you for the interview.

Kalyagin Conducts 'Telebridge' on Chernobyl
LD102022 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 10 May 86

["Vremya" "Telebridge" program conducted by Boris Kalyagin, with contributions from correspondent Vladimir Dunayev in Washington, correspondent Eduard Sorokin in London, and correspondent Yuriy Vybornov in Rome]

[Text] [Kalyagin] Hello, comrades. Here in Studio 20 today we have lines to Washington, London, and Rome. Taking part in our television link-up are our correspondents in those capitals, Vladimir Dunayev, Eduard Sorokin, and Yuriy Vybornov.

We are going to talk about the unworthy campaign which Western officials and mass information media are continuing to this day in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES. They are whipping up the row about the supposedly excessive secrecy in the Soviet Union and the shortage of information about the accident. You see, it is easier for them to continue nuclear explosions when people are shouting that it is difficult to trust the USSR, to conclude agreements with it. Is not this why they are making more noise than the others in Washington? What is your opinion, Vladimir Pavolovich?

[Dunayev] Yes, of course; and it is also for that reason... [changes thought] Although if one believes the political forecasts official Washington will have to wait a little with its new tests; it will have to wait because the attitude of Americans is not favorable and they will not accept them. Here is a letter in today's issue of *THE WASHINGTON POST*. It is written by (Robert Fitzpatrick) of Washington. The reaction of our press, television, and politicians to the Chernobyl accident was shameless and regrettable. Instead of recognizing in full the danger of nuclear weapons in our country, they were interested in scoring points in the psychological war. And it was quite wrong to carry statements by stock exchange speculators and individual congressmen who guessed with delight the amount that their shares on the Chicago Stock Exchange would go up if the accident had an effect on the harvest in the Ukraine.

[Kalyagin] So, ultimately they haven't been able to mislead everyone in the United States. There is a difference between what the press is writing and what the man in the street is saying?

[Dunayev] Yes, the reaction from official America and from unofficial America are as different as chalk and cheese. Those of us at Gostelradio's correspondents' office here in washington are aware of this because there has been a large number of telephone calls, hundreds of telephone calls, from people we know and people we don't know. The reaction was a very human, a very natural one, the only one possible with normal people. They offered to do all they could; they expressed sympathy. They said that everyone now had to draw lessons and conclusions so that in no way can the nuclear arms race be continued; because if an accident with a peaceful reactor can lead to unpredictable consequences, then what can one say about the use of combat atomic and nuclear devices?

[Kalyagin] Returning to the nuclear explosions which are being carried out by the United States, there have been reports that radiation is making its way to the surface at the nuclear testing ground in Nevada, and that threats are being created for the local population and even for Mexico.

[Dunayev] Yes, that is true. The last time was in April, during the latest explosion in Nevada. An official spokesman of the Environmental Protection Agency gave the following figures during a Senate session: Since 1964, U.S. nuclear devices have been tested 100 times, and radioactive gases have been released into the atmosphere. On 31 occasions these gases reached the territory of Mexico and of other countries in Latin America: they went beyond U.S. territory. Those are the statistics.

[Kalyagin] The Thatcher government, too, has not missed the opportunity to cast a shadow over the Soviet Union and to join in the campaign of disinformation. What are they saying in this connection where you are, Eduard Alekseyevich?

[Sorokin] Today I would like to draw attention to one point. In dramatizing the events, many of the West's mass information media, including the British, have been talking for several days about the panic which has supposedly gripped the people of Kiev. At the same time they have been deliberately sowing doubts and fears of all kinds in their own country. In particular, they say that the radioactive cloud has reached foggy Albion.

Although the radiation level remains within normal limits, if one wants to obtain additional information, people are told to ring such-and-such a telephone number. And the calls are being made. People ask things like: On Saturday I was playing cricket and got caught in the rain. Is this dangerous to life? Or: My husband has just returned from Poland. What's going to happen to him now? I have no doubt that these and other questions were asked. They are certainly the result of the campaign of hysteria which is being fanned in the West. The same old thesis is being reworked, the thesis of the Soviet threat; only now it has acquired a somewhat specific local color: the talk is about the danger of radioactivity from the Soviet Union.

[Kalyagin] And those who have engaged in falsification have been covered with shame. There are no thousands of victims in common graves; there is no panic in Kiev; there is no threat of neighboring countries being infected — as the Western newspapers heralded. Moreover, a visit to the Ukrainian capital has been organized for foreign journalists, while Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has been given an opportunity to inspect the site of the accident from a helicopter. Afterwards he held a news conference in Moscow and stated that he had been given all the necessary information. So has the tone of the British press changed today, Eduard Alekseyevich?

[Sorokin] It would seem that there are people here who consider that truth is only harmless when it has been diluted somewhat. The statement by the IAEA director general has been reported, but they have immediately diluted it with conjectures and insinuations of all kinds linked with the accident.

[Kalyagin] And what are they writing in Rome now, Yuriy Viktorovich?

[Vybornov] First of all, the muddy wave that was flung over readers' heads and those of radio listeners and television viewers is gradually being reduced to nothing, though of course it has not yet gone away. A gradual sobering-up is now taking place. No, their propaganda has not begun loving us more. But they have been pinned to the wall by the facts; and in light of this the newspapers have started to provide more objective information, more sensible information. Here are today's newespapers for example. They give a lot of material about yesterday's press conference in Moscow by Hans Blix, the IAEA director general. This headline says: The Fire Has Been Put Out, Radioactivity Is Falling. [video shows Vybornov leafing through newspapers] They give long reports from Kiev, where there is a group of Western correspondents. Nevertheless, even in this situation there are attempts to exert an influence on the psyche of readers and listeners. Take for example the major bourgeois newspaper, the *CORRIERE DELLA SERA*. Today it came out with a large headline saying: Two Steps Away From a Nuclear Desert. And of course, by the words nuclear desert, they meant the area of Chernobyl. Nevertheless, in Italy today the broad public opinion is coming to a conclusion about something else: about the fact that what happened at Chernobyl is part of the cost of traveling the road toward new heights of progress, the road toward the peaceful mastery of the atom. But the main thing — and this thought is stressed in speeches and commentaries and simply in what people say when you meet and talk to them in the street — is that one has to pay attention to ensure that the atom is always peaceful, that there is never a tragedy for mankind linked with its use for military purposes.

[Kalyagin] We now conclude our television link-up. Thank you, Washington, London, and Rome.

PRAVDA Reports IAEA Officials' Press Conference

PM101900 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 May 86
First Edition p 6

[TASS report under the rubric "Surrounding the Chernobyl AES": "Press Conference in Moscow"]

[Text] Increasingly reassuring news is coming in from the scientists and specialists who are eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. With each passing day the temperature in the damaged unit decreases and there is a consistent decline in the radiation level and therefore also in the likely threat to the health of people in the zone directly adjoining the station. The state of the water and air in the AES settlement and in Kiev, Minsk, and other nearby towns is not causing concern either.

That is the summary made by the leaders of the IAEA who have been in our country at the Soviet Government's invitation. At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on 9 May, H. Blix (Sweden), director general of the IAEA; L. Konstantinov (USSR), his deputy; and M. Rosen (United States), director of the agency's Nuclear Safety Department, gave a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists.

The IAEA director general told of his meetings with the leaders of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Nuclear Power, the USSR Ministry of Health, the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, and the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Nuclear Power Industry. On 8 May the IAEA representatives flew in a helicopter over the town of Chernobyl, 18 km from the AES, and also the territory of the station, and saw the damaged unit from a distance of 800 meters. In extremely frank discussions, H. Blix said, and as a result of visual observations at the scene of the event, we have managed to form a fairly complete, although preliminary, impression of the accident and its consequences.

We will receive a detailed and authoritative description of the accident, its causes, and its consequences from Soviet specialists after the necessary analysis, the IAEA leaders stated. But even today we are quite satisfied with the preliminary information and with the positive development of events. The chain reaction was automatically stopped at the moment of the accident. This was also indirectly confirmed by medical examination of the victims: They were not subjected to intense neutron radiation. A considerable proportion of the radioactive discharge consists of short-lived radionuclides, half of them in the form of an isotope of iodine — Iodine 131.

Professor M. Rosen commented favorably on the methods used by the Soviet specialists to absorb radiation by means of a shield consisting of sand, boron, clay, dolomite, and lead. Within a short time this led to a decrease in the level of radioactivity in the 30-km zone and enabled the necessary shift personnel to continue work on the three other reactors in order to keep them in a safe, shut-down [zaglushennyy] condition. Reactor No 3, which is next to No 4, was not damaged and its cooling and safety systems are operating normally. Work is continuing beneath the damaged unit — the aim is to completely neutralize the seat of the radiation and, as physicists say, to "entomb" it in a thick mass of concrete. The improvement in the radiation situation in the 30-km zone is shown by the following figures. Compared with the peak radiation at the time of the accident (10-15 milliroentgens per hour), by 5 May radiation at the border of this zone had decreased to 2-3 milliroentgens, and by 8 May it had dropped to 0.15 milliroentgens per hour. The level of radioactivity in the water reservoirs of Kiev and the oblast was normal at all times, the director general noted.

The meetings in Moscow and the Ukraine were very fruitful, H. Blix declared, and their results are reflected in the communique on our visit. I would like to make a few additions to this document. Nuclear power is a complex and important sphere of mankind's activity in which it is extremely necessary for us to consult with one another. The IAEA is simultaneously both the forum and the machinery for such collaboration. In response to my invitations, our Soviet colleagues eagerly agreed to come to Vienna to discuss the results of the measures that are being taken to eliminate the accident. Something else that is no less important its the fact that the Soviet specialists will promptly inform the IAEA of the radiation situation. This information channel for the IAEA is being opened up today, the day of our departure from Moscow. H. Blix described this accord as the start of the creation of new international machinery to ensure timely warning of any incidents at AESes that may have cross-border consequences.

Most of the questions put by the journalists quite naturally concerned the health of the people living in the zone adjoining the station and beyond — How soon will the seat of radiation be completely entombed, and how soon will people return to their homes?

We were in Kiev only yesterday, the IAEA representatives said. We saw normal, ordinary city life. There were many people in the streets, and there were even more on the day the international cycle race began. We visited the monument commemorating the victory in World War II. We saw many foreign tourists there. In short, life is going on as usual. The schools are open. Medical investigation of the residents of Kiev, children included, shows that there are no grounds for speaking of a danger to people's health.

U.S. journalists asked whether the discharge of radiation from power unit No 4 has been totally ended and what damage has been done to the Ukraine's agriculture.

The situation in the damaged unit, the specialists emphasized, is stabilizing. Dosimetric readings made during our helicopter flight over the station confirm the sharp reduction in the quantity of radioactive materials being discharged into the atmosphere. As for the damage to agriculture, this must be considered in the light of the distance of the locality from the seat, and also according to the passage of time. We have already stressed that the radioactive isotopes released as a result of the accident are short-lived. This means that in the future work will resume in nearby fields and the AES settlement will be safe for habitation.

Certain foreign correspondents asked: Is the Soviet Union going to close other reactors of the Chernobyl type operating in the country?

In the course of a careful analysis of the accident, the Soviet authorities have found nothing to necessitate the closure of other reactors, H. Blix said. We have been told that measures are being taken to improve safety at other installations.

RSFSR Paper Describes Evacuation of Area

PM121030 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 May 86 p 5

[Article by TASS correspondents Vladimir Zhukovskiy, Vladimir Itkin, and Lev Chernenko "specially for *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA*": "The Battle With No Front Line"]

[Text] The general threw off his tunic. The gold of the shoulder-boards and the multicolored medal-ribbon bars flashed. He looked for the last time at his still-quite-new uniform, pondered for a moment, and then unclipped the insignia of meritorious worker of the USSR MVD. His tunic and striped trousers would be destroyed: This was required as part of the precautionary measures. That was how the commander, who had together with his comrades-in arms fought an arduous engagement, left the battlefield.

There have been quite a few difficult situations and fights against bandits and dangerous criminals in the life of Gennadiy Vasilyevich Berdov, major general in the militia and deputy internal affairs minister of the Ukrainian SSR. But the duel which was now in its 9th day in Chernobyl was special. Never before perhaps have people confronted such a dangerous enemy — unseen but powerful, and thereby extremely insidious. And the responsibility borne in this encounter was incomparable.

The "combat operations log" which Major General Berdov began to keep on arriving in the Chernobyl AES area early in the morning of 26 April has become a kind of diary for him and his many colleagues. a document whose laconic words record the feat of the thousands of MVD workers who were among the first to begin combating the accident.

If you do not see everything for yourself, you can't evaluate the situation correctly, was how G.V. Berdov reasoned; and therefore he did not sit around headquarters but was constantly in the worst trouble spots. Not only sergeants and warrant officers but also colonels performed checkpoint duty [postovaya sluzhba] in the danger zone. And in those very difficult conditions there was not been a single case of refusal of duty. Ensuring order and security in the danger zone and helping victims were the tasks that MVD workers tackled. People were, of course, alarmed by the announcement of an imminent evacuation. A whole delegation came to the ispolkom. General Berdov was instructed to meet with people and reassure them. Gennadiy Vasilyevich went out to see people dressed in his general's uniform. Tall, gray-haired, and calm, he knew how to find the much needed words about the imminent evacuation of the city.

One thousand buses were already waiting on the outskirts of the nuclear power workers' city. The convoy entered the city at exactly 1400. A bus stopped at every entrance-way. Many people simply had not considered that their absence might be protracted and were traveling light. The militia checked every apartment to ensure that everyone had left the settlement.

"In that situation much depended on the actions of our workers, on their calm and confident behavior," G.V. Berdov opined. "After all, the people were anxious and agitated; therefore we had to show particular restraint, tact, benevolence, and readiness to help." And that is precisely why energetic political education work was carried out among MVD workers in the tense, acute situation that prevailed. Temporary party organizations and party groups were set up in combined detachments and meetings were held. All this work was headed by Militia Major General A.I. Borovik, chief of the Ukrainian MVD political section. The political work was then carried out according to a precise plan embracing the most important questions in those extreme conditions, including party recruitment. This is what Militia Captain Oleg Dmitriyevich wrote in his application: "I want to carry out my official and civic duty as a Communist in eliminating the after-effects of the accident..." V.A. Kuybin, Yu.G. Vergel, and A.S. Vdovichenko, Communists with long party service, recommended their work colleague.

Approximately 20 applications came in during the first 3 days. All of them, as required by regulations, were immediately examined. As we were informed at the Kiev Gorkom, the decisions of the party meetings held in the power workers' settlement were

examined as a priority. For many, work in the extreme conditions at the AES was a supreme test.

There were thousands of vehicles on the roads during the evacuation. But thanks to a large extent to the State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate there was not a single accident or major holdup. The transport militia also remained essentially in charge at the Yanov station situated near the AES. Trains loaded with important national economic freight were there at the time of the accident. Passenger trains, whose locomotive teams were of course unaware of what had happened, were arriving at the station as scheduled. The extremely difficult conditions demanded resolute and urgent measures to clear the station, establish efficient order, and stop traffic. That task was successfully dealt with by workers of the southwest internal affairs administration in charge of transport, headed by Colonel A.I. Shevandin. There were small villages whose inhabitants were removed from danger by militiamen.

The Chernobyl events have severely tested people's character and true moral fiber. Cowards suddenly appeared and new heroes were born. The accident at the AES will serve for us not only as a severe technical lesson but also as a moral lesson.

The difficult duel continues.

Chernobyl Fire Chief Interviewed in Hospital

PM121405 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 May 86 Morning Edition p 3

[G. Alimov report under the rubric "By the Laws of Courage"; "Fulfilling His Duty: After the Accident at the AES He Was One of the First To Go Into Danger" — first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] In its first reportage from the region of the Chernobyl AES *IZVESTIYA* reported the resolute, courageous actions of the firemen under the leadership of Major L. Telyatnikov. He is now in Moscow, in Teaching Hospital No 6. The doctors allowed *IZVESTIYA*'s correspondents to see him briefly.

They asked us to change our clothing. They explained: There is no danger to you, but you might harm him. They issued a complete suit of new hospital clothing — from socks and slippers to a respirator. I asked if I could shake hands with my interlocutor. I wanted to shake Leonid Petrovich's hand on behalf of all the readers and thank him for what he and his men did. They gave me permission. But Professor Angelina Konstantinovna Guskova urged me not to ask too many questions.

"You mustn't," she said. "You must understand: It is not easy to live through what happened all over again."

Rules are rules... Doctor Lyudmila Nikolayevna Petrosyan led us to Ward 842. Telyatnikov was having dinner. When he saw us he stood up and smiled. A small man, lean, strong, with an open Russian face.

Then he sat opposite me on the bed, which was made with soldierly neatness. The window in the ward was open, you could smell the spring and the fir trees growing in the hospital yard. I noticed the newspapers on the bed — *PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA*. A color photograph was stuck to the wall below the light switch. Two boys standing arm in arm.

"My sons... I managed to grab the photo and bring it with me. The one on the right, the older, more serious one, is Oleg. This one, the younger, is Mikhail. A cheerful little boy. You see, he's smiling here."

Telyatnikov spoke eagerly about them. The elder is studying in the fifth grade. He will soon take the first exam in his life, in mathematics. Naturally, his father is worried. Oleg is in the third grade, and wants to be a combine operator. Leonid Petrovich sighs:

"I miss them."

His wife Larisa Ivanovna and the children are in Kiev now. He says he has already sent them two letters. He has had no reply yet. He does not know how they are. He fell silent again and seemed to tense up. I still did not have the heart to take him back to that fateful day. I felt I did not want to remind him. Professor Guskova was right. We spoke of how he feels.

"Everything seems normal at the moment. I told my relatives that when I wrote, so that they do not worry for nothing. I have a good appetite, I'm sleeping quite well. When I'm free from medical procedures, I listen to the radio. It's nice that my father and all four of my sisters have come to Moscow now. It's a kind of psychological support group," he jokes. "After 20 May," he said, "I'm expecting my wife and sons: once the lads have finished school."

Leonid graduated from the Sverdlovsk firemen's technical school 15 years ago, and then studied in Moscow, at the USSR MVD Higher Fire Engineering School. Four years ago he was appointed chief of the militarized fire unit for the protection of the Chernobyl AES. He was 31 at the time. He served irreproachably. He was more than once commended by the leadership. He did excellent work during the extinguishing of a peat fire on Pripyatskiy Sovkhoz in Chernobylskiy Rayon. At that time the fire threatened the whole village. The skillful actions of Telyatnikov's subunit helped to save the people's property and the village.

And then 26 April came.

The alarm system connected to the AES went off in the fire unit. The duty crew is always in a state of number one readiness, it set off for the site immediately. It subsequently became clear that it was they, the firemen, who decided the outcome of the affair. Telyatnikov's telephone rang at once. That is the procedure, even though he was on leave and was due to return to work next day.

On the telephone, Telyatnikov recognized the agitated voice of the controller:

"Fire in the machine room! The roof is burning... The crew has gone out..."

He was prepared to run the 6 km to the station on foot, but time, time!

...The car took him there rapidly. Not feeling the ground beneath his feet, he ran toward the machine room, finding time to tell the driver to bring in the other people who were not on duty. From that moment on he was responsible for everthing! As an experienced specialist, he realized that a crew of 15 men could not cope with the fire — reinforcements were needed. ...In the reactor hall, flames were raging on various levels, in at least five places, including the roof. The fire was spreading implacably in the direction of the neighboring reactor and might penetrate the cable conduits which form a network embracing the entire power station. Fires had broken out in the instrument room too. The fire threatened to spread to the machine room and destroy the system for controlling the protection of the entire power station. And that must be prevented! ...Speedy, intelligent decisions were required. The fire must be stopped at all costs in the key directions and must not be allowed to spread. Telyatnikov sent one division to protect the machine room, two others, at the cost of incredible efforts, were holding back the advance of the seething fire toward the neighboring power unit and eliminating the burning in the reactor hall.

In this menacing situation, when the fate of the power station — and not only the power station — was being decided, none of the firemen faltered or gave way.

They all understood clearly and consciously what they were going into — by that time the dosimeter operators had already given the terrible warning — radiation! But there was simply no other way out. They knew what was at stake in their struggle against the fire. They stood firm in the face of trouble and were the first in the firing line.

Telyatnikov climbed up several times to the highest point of the power stations (71 meters up), where the instrument department and the main seat of the fire were located. Exceptionally complex conditions were created here. Part of the roof over the reactor had collapsed, load-bearing structures had warped, and a scorching hot torrent of burning bitumen was surrounding the firemen on all sides. A dense, poisonous smoke reduced visibility and made breathing difficult. People were working under the threat of a collapse at any second or of sudden jets of flame. In this situation it was particularly important to organize efficiently the work of all the sections and to distribute reinforcements correctly as they arrived. Telyatnikov lost track of time as this work went on.

"We did not know how long we had been there. We only knew one thing: We must stay till the end. That was our duty to people."

It has been calculated that the major's subunit was at the station for nearly 3 hours from the moment of the accident. They were taken away at around 0500 hours. By that time the fire was practically eliminated. They had done what was most important: They had gotten the fire under control and beaten down the main seats of the fire without allowing the flames to spread to the station's other power units.

...The time allotted to me had dwindled disastrously. Lyudmila Nikolayevna, the doctor accompanying us, was already pointing to the clock. I asked Leonid Petrovich to say just a few words about the guys in his subunit.

"What can I say? Heroes, real heroes. All of them, without exception."

He particularly mentioned the still very young Lieutenant Vladimir Pravik, chief of the crew. In that critical situation he displayed outstanding courage and was the major's right hand.

It was time to take our leave. Once again I shook the major's hand. He said:

"If you see Pravik, give him my greetings. Find out how he is. Tell him I'm fine..."

Later, we had another conversation with Professor Guskova. I asked about the condition of the patients.

"We are doing everything necessary," Angelina Konstantinovna said. "They are now undergoing additional laboratory and clinical tests. The treatment process is prolonged, it requires time, patience, and expertise. American doctors are advising us on a number of specialized questions. We are counting on an improvement..."

PRAVDA Reports Nationwide Support for Chernobyl

PM121635 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 86
First Edition p 6

[Special correspondents B. Gubarev and M. Odinets report: "Battle Continuing; Chernobyl AES: New Stage in the Work"]

[Text] It is our motherland's pain. And it will take time for the wound to heal. Chernobyl...

The name of the small Ukrainian city flew around the entire world in a flash and all honest people in the world heard with sorrow the news of the disaster which had happened there. Its consequences could have been even greater had it not been for the selflessness and heroism of Soviet people who, sometimes sacrificing their own lives and health, rushed to vanquish the nuclear giant which has shown over the last few days how dangerous it is. It was only an accident to one peaceful reactor, but it resulted in a major disaster — what if stockpiles of nuclear weapons were brought into action?! It is terrifying to even think about it...

Things are now slightly easier. Ten days after the accident there was still a threat that it could escalate [rasshiritsya]. When we met with Academician Ye. Velikhov, he told us: "The reactor has been damaged. Its heart is an incandescent core which is, as it were, 'hanging [visit] there.' The reactor is covered from the top with a layer of sand, lead, boron, and clay, and this is an additional strain on the structure. Below, there may be water in the special reservoir... How does incandescent reactor crystal behave? Will it be possible to contain it or will it melt down [uydet

v zemlyu]? Nobody in the world has ever been in such a complex situation: It is essential to assess the situation very accurately and not make a single mistake..." The further development of events showed that the right avenue had been chosen for fighting the raging reactor. The water was pumped out from under the reactor, wells were drilled, and a "cooling zone" was created which cooled the reactor. Preparations are under way to bury the reactor.

I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, noted: "Today it is firmly possible to talk about a new stage in the work to eliminate the consequences of the AES accident. The main danger is over at this stage: However, there will be an enormous amount of work to do in totally decontaminating the station and the adjoining territory." We must not relax under any circumstances! The elimination of the consequences of the accident is essentially starting now. The reactor is still not safe, there are radioactive substances on the station territory and in the zone. Working with them will require very great care and thoroughness. No forecasts can be made on this matter, but it will take a long time for all the consequences to be eliminated — maybe even months... It would probably be expedient to hold special radiation security "lessons" in the oblast and to explain to the inhabitants of evacuated regions all the features linked with radioactivity. There are enough specialists at Kiev's scientific and educational establishments to discuss the basics of radiation security in laymen's terms.

The Chernobyl disaster has touched all Soviet people. There is an endless flood of telegrams to *PRAVDA* pledging readiness to help eliminate the AES accident.

"Please inform the Ministry of Power and Electrification that the collective of the team of acid resistance workers from the 'Yuzhenergokhimzashchita' specialized administration engaged in anticorrosion work in building the Rostov AES considers it its duty to participate in the work to eliminate the consequences of the accident. The specialists have experience ranging from 10-18 years. Team leader Sevastyanov, Foreman Kachanov, team members Nikolayev, Kulikov, Mareyev, Parfenov, Sobolev, Shcherbakov, Yakovlev, Ryabukhin, Yeshtokin, Vdovikin, Timofeyev, Sklyarov, and Fedoseyev."

"I wish to do what I can to help in eliminating the Chernobyl AES accident. I am 47. I am deputy chief occupational safety engineer at 'Nizhnevartovskneftedorstroy.' Onuchkin." Telegrams, letters, and money transfers are arriving from all corners of the country.... All Soviet people are treating Chernobyl's misfortune as their own.

Many letters are also arriving in Kiev, expressing sympathy and support for the heroic working people at the AES. Many people write to the power station workers, asking them to send their children to the Caucasus, the Kuban, the Volga Region, Moscow, or Leningrad. They will be received there like the closest and dearest relatives.

It would probably be expedient for the Ministry of Power and Electrification to set up a special "staff" to notify people if they are needed and inform them of the proper place to address in different cases. Work in the zone is specialized and the appropriate skills are necessary — the required specialists are present in adequate numbers. It is, however, clear today that the best assistance to Chernobyl would be for everyone to work more productively and more efficiently at his own work position.

...The *TRIBUNA ENERGETIKA*, house newspaper of the Pripyat AES, has resumed publication in Ivankovo. The evacuated journalists were cordially welcomed and accommodated by the collective of the Ivankovskiy Rayon newspaper. The first issue of the newspaper published in the new location carried a long article describing the heroism and courage of working people at the Chernobyl AES struggling to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the power unit.

The newspaper narrates how, while its issue was coming off the presses, the editorial office received a phone call from the Obukhovichi Rural Soviet. The staff dealing with the population's evacuation asked that thanks be conveyed to Ye. Us and V. Babenko, residents in Obukhovichi Village, and also to N. Khomenko and A. Musmenko from Stanishovka Village, who have housed five and more persons each. S. Glushchenko even managed to house eight evacuees in his home.

There are very many events happening at and around Chernobyl AES. The entire country is helping the collective of power industry and construction industry workers to eliminate the consequences of the accident. Now there is an urgent need for drill-operators, excavator drivers, and crane operators there.... Without slowing down the pace of building a new line for the capital's metro system, the "Kievmetrostroy" has seconded an integrated Komsomol and youth team from the tunneling section to Chernobyl, led by Communist V. Vilko.

On the Chernobyl road, one of us met a group of bulldozer drivers who had flown in from Urengoy. Vladimir Lakhtin said: "I have with me an entire group of experienced machine operators. But I also know that nine drill-operators have flown here from the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad track. Lads from the Caucasus are also here. The concerns of people in Chernobyl are our common concerns, and we will try to do everything to eliminate the consequences of the accident as soon as possible." Now the Kiev plants are executing in a flash any orders placed by those "advancing on" the No 4 power block. Hero of Socialist Labor P. Shilo, director of the "Tochelektropribor" Plant, told the *PRAVDA* correspondent's office that people in the shops have worked around the clock, not leaving their machine tools until they have completed the devices requested from Chernobyl. The same work enthusiasm was displayed by workers in the "Bolshevik" and "Leninskaya Kuznitsa" Plants. When the people taming the damaged reactor needed concrete, the Zhbi-5 Plant under the "Glavkievgorstroy" was started up at night, and the "Yugozaptransstroy" and "Yugenergomontazh" concrete-making units started work within a matter of hours....

Working people in many Ukrainian enterprises are overfulfilling their targets beneath the slogan "Let Us Help the Chernobyl AES Collective!" We had an opportunity to talk with Pensioner Lyubov Aleksandrovna Vilenskaya, who decided to transfer R200 from her modest savings to the fund for assistance to Pripyat. The bank is transferring this money to the credit of Account No 904.

Lomeyko Condemns West's Restrictions on Food Imports

LD121500 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1412 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 12 May (TASS) — At a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists held today in the Press Center of the USSR Foreign Ministry, the discriminatory measures announced by Western countries with respect to the import of certain food products from socialist states were condemned. The prohibitions and embargoes, which the Western powers introduce from time to time, said Vladimir Lomeyko, chief of the USSR Foreign Minister Press Department, have already become a constant weapon to exert pressure. This new action does not constitute an exception. It is a surprising fact that certain Western powers are attempting to make political capital out of the accident which has taken place. First they whip up hysteria concerning the Chernobyl AES and then they make use of it to introduce discriminatory measures. These actions are completely groundless. The consultative conference of the World Health Organization which took place the other day with the participation of a large group of authoritative specialists from many countries of Western and Eastern Europe adopted a document in which the complete groundlessness of the assertions put forward to justify the discriminatory measures is stressed. The main conclusion of this document is that at the present time the radiation situation poses no danger at all for the population of Europe. From the point of view of health, these restrictions on the importation of food products are groundless.

The head of the Foreign Ministry Press Department exposed the underlying cause for the sensational hysteria which is being whipped up by some press organs in the west. First, they complained about the lack of information, and at the same time ignored the information they were receiving on the accident. The accident and people's misfortune has been turned into a sensation, the scale of the accident has been grossly exaggerated. As an example, he showed a copy of the *NEW YORK POST* of 2 May, where the entire front page is occupied by the headline: "Mass Grave; 15,000 People Buried in a Nuclear Pit."

Western correspondents would be of much better service to the cause of peace and mutual understanding between peoples if they were just as persistent in urging the U.S. Administration for an answer about why it continues nuclear tests in Nevada. The accident in Chernobyl is a mishap, but blasts in Nevada are a conscious policy of poisoning our planet, which is being conducted in order to develop new death-dealing varieties of nuclear armaments. This is pushing humanity toward a nuclear catastrophe.

More on Lomeyko Criticism

AU121515 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpts] Moscow, May 12 (AFP) — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeyko Monday denounced an EEC ban on imports of East bloc countries' foodstuffs as "unjustified and without foundation." Mr. Lomeyko said the ban was aimed at applying "political pressure on the socialist countries."

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Lomeyko said that the "uproar" over Chernobyl had led to an "uncontroilled psychosis in Western public opinion, which has been the pretext for discriminatory measures" against the East bloc countries. "In some countries, the hysteria borders on an anti-Soviet psychosis," he said.

When asked why the Soviet Union had been so slow in disclosing information about the accident, Mr. Lomeyko said that Moscow had not immediately recognized "either the nature, or the scope" of the accident because, he said, "nothing of the kind had ever happened before."

"The Soviet Union did not deliberately seek to hide the truth," he said, but it wanted to be sure its information was "verified, exact and clear" before communicating it to other countries.

Mr. Lomeyko, who was in the United States at the time of the accident, said that Americans, "on the one hand complain about the absence of information, and on the other, they ignored what they were told" in order to "immediately infer that a country that hides the truth cannot be trusted." He called this attitude "intolerable, amoral and dangerous."

He said the situation around Chernobyl was "stabilizing and improving every day."

Everything is interlinked in a small world. Political lessons are being drawn from a technical disaster.

In an unexpected way, Chernobyl confirmed the vitally important need for a new political thinking in international life in the nuclear age. When people talk about that kind of thinking they mean primarily a new overall approach to the madness of the nuclear arms race, which does not increase its participants' security but instead reduces it because you cannot achieve true security for yourself alone to the detriment of others. The Chernobyl disaster seems to have extended and, at the same time, given concrete form to the sphere of practical application of the new thinking.

I would like to cite in some detail the conversation between a West Berlin radio correspondent and FRG Foreign Minister Genscher.

The correspondent said: "Suddenly every citizen in the FRG has noticed how small Europe is and how close Kiev actually is in this instance." Genscher replied: "The whole world has become smaller as a result of technical progress. Consequently, we have begun to depend more on each other." The correspondent continued his line of reasoning: "Perhaps the realization of how small the world is and how close Kiev is to the FRG will help those politicians discussing security questions at the various talks; in other words, there will be consequences for security policy, too." Genscher replied: "That is probably so. This event will probably have those consequences. I believe that once again the fact has clearly been shown that in this shrinking world mankind's survival can only be guaranteed by collective decisions, that is to say that collective decisions are the only possible ones to ensure that everybody does not seek security for themselves and that there is a joint search for security in the sphere of the protection of the natural foundations of life, security against

those threats contained in the new forms of technology alongside the great potential, and security of course on the military level, the level of disarmament, arms control, and confidence-building measures." It is surely possible to agree with every word of that argument.

The new political thinking in a shrinking and interdependent world requires at the very least greater East-West understanding. Understanding is impossible without a common language. This does not mean English, French, or Russian, of course, but the language of international political contact. It must be comprehensible to the other side, take account of the nature of the other society, and perhaps take account of a different attitude to informnation existing in the other social psychology, even a different speed of dissemination of that information. Chernobyl raised with a new acuteness the question of seeking a common language of cooperation between the two different societies — socialist and capitalist. It must be a joint search and must presuppose restraint, great flexibility, and reciprocal compromises. We are ready for such a search and confirmed that readiness from the platform of the 27th CPSU Congress.

Of course, this line of reasoning does not apply to inveterate anti-Sovietists working, as it were, in automatic mode. You cannot find a common language with them. They do not have a language but a poisonous sting and this has been demonstrated often recently. They went to particular pains across the ocean to disseminate frightening rumors and fabrications, using them to fill every available space. "A human tragedy should not be turned into a political game," British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe stated the other day. But that is precisely what the various malefactors have done who, in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES, have undertaken yet another mass attack on the Soviet peace initiatives, particularly when trying to instill doubts regarding our plan to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the end of the 20th century.

It is to the credit of the world community and also of official circles in the West that there were more people who sympathized, showed understanding, expressed a readiness to help, and who found the right moral and political measure in judging what had happened. It is with them that the difficult search for a common language must be continued, even making use of such experience as Chernobyl. It would have been better had it not existed; but now that it does, this experience will give all countries another opportunity to learn.

Kondrashov on Anti-Soviet Treatment of Chernobyl

PM121010 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 May 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Political Observer Stanislav Kondrashov article: "Thinking About Chernobyl"]

[Text] In the past when fate took an unexpected turn our forefathers used to say: Everything is at the mercy of God. Without getting involved again in the argument about God, let us set out the evident truth of our time that everything is now at the mercy of the atom. And that applies to all mankind and all life on earth. Whether the atom is used for military or peaceful purposes. We have been reminded about that from time to time by accidents in the United States, Britain, and other countries. Another tragic reminder was provided by the accident at the Chernobyl AES, which suddenly entered our life — and not only ours — and world politics.

For almost 2 weeks Chernobyl has been featured in newspapers and on the "Vremya" TV program. It occupies no less important a place in our thoughts and feelings. This accident, this calamity occurred in our land. Our land is vast; and, of course, the nearer someone is to the scene of the event, the more keen and involved is his experience of what happened. But we are all children of one country; and no matter how many hundreds or thousands of kilometers separate us from Chernobyl, in our thoughts we are beside the people stricken by misfortune and with our fellow-countrymen who have had to hurriedly leave their houses and their homes, fleeing the threat of radiation. We think about their changed lives and their anxieties — they cannot fail to be alarmed, even if they are now being comforted by the concern and warmth of sympathy in their new locations.

The TV screens have shown us just a small part of the scenes which they will remember all their lives. Pictures taken from helicopters show the deserted settlement around the AES, the bright new apartment blocks, the straight and empty streets. Sensing the meaning of this picture as people of the nuclear age, we felt the unseen, silent, and awesome presence of increased radioactivity. So this is what it is like, we thought as we watched.

Perhaps it looks like that, perhaps not; but what is clear is that this monstrous force is kept under protective casings which keep the working peaceful atom in check; but the power concealed in stockpiles of nuclear warheads, designed to destroy and kill, is incomparably more terrible. Everyone is at the mercy of the atom, having awakened, curbed, and, it would seem, entirely tamed it. But who guaranteed its absolute obedience?

All these questions and thoughts concern us, casting their shadow on the blossoming of spring, the May Day celebrations, and the approaching Victory Day.

We feel fraternal sympathy with the victims, a unity of kinship with those forced to leave their homes. We pay tribute to the courage of those who in dangerous conditions are eliminating the after-effects of the accident and are extinguishing the smoldering remains of this conflagration. There are situations when doing your duty is tantamount to performing an exploit. That is the case with the people who remained at Chernobyl AES.

You cannot counter panic with thoughtless or careless bravado. This is no place for those two opposites.

We are not the only ones thinking about Chernobyl. This word, until recently unknown to most people in our country, is now on the whole world's lips. On such occasions you see once again how small the world is. In the modern poet's metaphor, "the world dangles in a string bag of latitudes and longitudes" containing almost 5 billion people gripped with fear at the threat of nuclear war to which has suddenly been added the danger of radiation from the Chernobyl atom. There is much sincere sympathy and

understanding in the world now for those who have the ability to put themselves in others' shoes. People are casting plenty of wary looks at the sky and their surroundings — radioactivity needs no visa and is no respecter of national frontiers. Immediately panic-mongers turned up, who set about poisoning the atmosphere with the radiation of distrust of the Soviet Union; their initial offensive was halted and turned back by the force of facts, particularly those cited at the press conference in Moscow. The radiation of distrust is also subsiding to a certain extent, as is the radiation in the atmosphere. As various countries are reporting, the radiation presents no threat to people's health and even less to their lives.

BULGARIA

Agrarian Journal Carries Arbatov Interview

AU121345 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 9 May 86 p 4

[Interview given by USSR Academician Georgiy Arbatov to "Western radio and television stations, in connection with the accident [avariya] in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant," entitled "Misfortune [neshtastiye] Should Not be a Reason for Hatred." Time and place of interview not given. Interview dispatched "especially for *ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME* by NOVOSTI."]

[Text] In connection with the accident in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, many Western radio and television stations addressed questions to Academician Georgiy Arbatov, the noted USSR scientist and public figure.

[Question] Many Western mass media accuse the USSR of delaying information on the accident. What can you say about this?

[Arbatov] The case required verification and the obtaining of reliable information based on real facts and the instruments' data. It seems that the situation in the region of the nuclear power plant during the initial period was connected with circumstances that complicated the investigation into the reasons behind the unexpectedly occurring trouble [beda]. First of all we had to take care of saving people who were in immediate danger. In addition, clarifying the reasons behind such an accident is no simple task. It is known that the United States is still clarifying the precise reason for the "Challenger" disaster.

After the first report from the Soviet government all the necessary information was given to the IAEA. The director general of the agency, Hans Blix, was invited to the USSR in order to get acquainted with the situation on the spot. By the way of comparison we can recall that the United States informed the IAEA about the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant 2 months after the incident [proizshestvie]. I do not recall anybody in the West making an issue of it. However, now hatred for the USSR is hiding behind this uproar about the accident in our nuclear power plant. We are witnessing an artificial exaggeration of what has happened, with the goal of provoking hysterics. This at least is not honest. It is shameful and undignified.

[Question] Did the level of radiation threaten neighboring countries? What measures were taken to decrease the danger?

[Arbatov] Our scientists can have no data on the radiation level in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Japan, simply because these countries are rather far away from the USSR. In Kiev, which is situated 130 km from Chernobyl, the radiation level did not exceed the safety limit for people. Radiation in the accident area has increased.

Good sense indicates that all measures must be adopted to decrease the consequences of the accident. Recently, highly qualified Soviet specialists equipped with appropriate instruments departed for Romania and Poland. You know that the level of radiation is not a constant value. It depends on the distance from the location of the accident, the direction of the winds, and so forth. In the immediate proximity of the reactor — in a radius of 100 meters — the radiation level increased sharply; the possibility of radioactive fallout existed up to a distance of 10 km; only negligent deviations from the natural level were noted in several regions located 100 km from the reactor.

[Question] In the West many people are sincerely concerned with the fate of the population in the regions affected by the misfortune. What form of assistance was rendered?

[Arbatov] We are very grateful to those thousands of voluntary donors who offered bone-marrow for transplants and blood for transfusions. We are touched by the manifestations of sympathy. We gratefully accept the assistance offered, if it is offered with good intentions.

I do not recommend that one seriously accept, let alone believe, the Western mass media which are trying to turn the case into a sensation and to disseminate panic. This is precisely what the "Liberty" and "Free Europe" radio stations — financed by the CIA and the United States — are doing in their broadcasts to the USSR, Poland, Romania, and other countries.

[Question] One of the main obstacles to the United states' accepting the Soviet peace proposals is the issue of verification [kontrol]. Can the Americans believe the USSR if it did not immediately give information on the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant?

[Arbatov] The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is being used by the American side as an excuse for their refusal to conduct a serious dialogue on the issue of control over the arms race and disarmament.

Such an approach is incorrect according to us. It aims at diverting mankind's attention from the main goal — to avoid a nuclear catastrophe that will be millions of times more terrible than similar accidents in all nuclear power plants combined.

The USSR is against the nuclear threat, including the one that emerges as a result of accidents at peaceful nuclear power plants. The Chernobyl accident provided another lesson as to how vulnerable modern civilization is in conditions in which technology is developing dynamically.

The world exists while 50,000 nuclear warheads also exist, and NATO has the intention of using nuclear weapons first.

Mankind can be saved from alarm about the future and can deal peacefully with its daily deeds, if it receives an assurance that the atom, and primarily the military atom, will not be used against it.

HUNGARY

Weekly Sums Up Chernobyl Accident Chronology

WA130815 [Editorial Report] Budapest *MAGYARORSZAG* No. 19 on 11 May on pages 6 and 7 carries a 3,500-word report by Tams Oltvanyi under the title: "Nuclear Power Station — Chernobyl — Dossier Of Events". The report, presents a chronological sequence of the Chernobyl accident stating:

"It seems that — last but not least due to the Western countries' attitude in striving to make use of the accident primarily for propaganda purposes — the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union may also have an effect on the world political atmosphere.

"here is the chronological order of the accident and the various statements connected with it:

"27 April: Increasing radiation levels are measured in the city of Kuopio in Finland, not far from the Soviet border. First among the press agencies, REUTER reported on radiation levels several times higher than the normal in the central areas of Finland.

"28 April: In the early morning hours an increased radiation level is also measured in the area of the Forsmark nuclear power station in Sweden. From the direction of the wind it is understood that the radiation is coming from across the border. An increase in radiation levels is also detected in the well-known resort center around the Mazur lakes in Poland.

Soviet Communique

"In the evening [of 28 April], a communique of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union announces that an accident has occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station and that one of the reactors has been damaged. Measures are said to have been taken to avoid the consequences of the accident and the injured are given medical attention. Not much later, TASS points out in a background report that this is the first such accident in the Soviet Union."

The chronological sequence of events then continues with factual reports on the government committee appointed on 29 April, the IAEA data on the type of nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, Reagan's reaction, the measures taken in Warsaw, and measurements in Hungary. The report continues by mentioning the TASS communique on the USSR Council of Ministers session on 30 April, international press reactions, a Soviet Television news "VREMYA" commentary, iodine pills being administered in Poland, the fact that some countries have banned food and vegetable imports from Eastern europe, and a *NEPSZABADSAG* interview by a duty engineer at the Paks Nuclear Power Station in Hungary.

The events described for 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 May contain references to the Boris Yeltsin interview to GDR television, preventive measures taken in Romania, the "wave of hysteria" in the West, the history of nuclear accidents compiled by the *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE*, measures taken in Austria, U.S. expert Robert Gale's visit to Moscow, IAEA'S Blix' visit to Moscow, Arbatov's interview to the BBC, Soviet Government communiques on measures taken at and around the site, and a Pravda on-the-spot report on the operations carried out in order to contain the radiation.

Air Radioactivity Levels 'Practically' Normal

LD121253 Budapest MTI in English 1230 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Budapest, May 12 (MTI) — The radioactive content of air in Hungary's atmosphere — following continuous decrease over the past days — has practically returned to the natural level prior to the Chernobyl reactor accident. Radioactivity of the soil, plants and surface waters is also very near the natural value. Regular measurements are continuing.

POLAND

Radiation Situation Seen Returning To Normal

LD091844 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Today the government commission chaired by Zbigniew Szalajda analyzed the results of the latest radiation measurements. These confirm the earlier assessments of a systematic decline in contamination. The situation is gradually returning to normal. A decisive decline in the contamination of milk over the last 2 days deserves emphasis. The commission reiterates that the recommended temporary restrictions on the consumption of some vegetables — lettuce, spinach, and sorrel — applies only to children and pregnant and nursing women. The radiation situation in the country, which in practice is returning to normal, allows the government commission to declare that the preparations for the tourist season, summer rest, and all forms of recreation for children and young people should be continued on full scale.

Urban Says Food Export Ban to Cost $45-$50 Million

LD131152 Warsaw PAP in English 1120 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Warsaw, May 13 — "According to preliminary assessments, the losses resulting from the ban on Polish food exports to Western markets will total at the end of this May some 45-50 million U.S. dollars," press spokesman for the Polish Government Ministry Jerzy Urban told today a press conference for foreign newsmen. "We do not know what will be the outcome of this ban after it is lifted, for the return of Polish food to the Western markets may be difficult because of this bad publicity," he added.

ROMANIA

Radiation Drops; Above Normal in 'Certain Zones'

AU121946 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1830 GMT 12 May 86

["From the Party and State Environmental Monitoring and Control Commission" — AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 12/5/1986 — The measurements carried out all over Romania showed that in the last few days radioactivity had continued to recede, nearing normal limits, in most of the affected areas, Bucharest city included. In certain zones, however, radiation levels are still higher than normal owing to air circulation fluctuations, but they present no health hazard.

The previously set prophlyactic measures remain in force. Radiation levels are being monitored by specialized stations and laboratories and the population will be kept informed until radioactvity returns to permissible margins throughout the territory.

YUGOSLAVIA

Military Commentator on Effects of Chernobyl

AU082158 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 6 May 86 p 6

[Dimitrije Seserinac, "Military-Political Commentary": "Nuclear Accident and Its Consequences"]

[Excerpt] The grave disaster [teska nesreca] which occurred in Chernobyl has caused varied reactions and provoked negative as well as some positive effects.

The first negative effect is certainly the disaster itself, which will have great consequences for economic trends and life in the Soviet Union. The second is, however, the strong and unnecessary aggravation of relations along the line of the existing ideological and political divisions in the world. The rightist extremists, attacking the Soviet Union for delayed and insufficiently exhaustive information of the world public about the disaster go so far as to try to show that it is implicit in the very nature of socialism that it does not protect its own people, that it does not care for its own people, and that consequently it wants even less to cooperate in the field of caring for other peoples.

Noting that the necessary information has indeed not been provided in time, one may say that anybody who is at all objective is far from drawing such conclusions. Nobody knows yet why information was not provided, which is to say, which motives prevailed at the moment. Any guesses rank among senseless speculation, but one may suppose that the responsible Soviet factors themselves did not learn quickly enough about the exact diagnosis of the accident or its extent.

Effects

However, we may at the same time note two positive effects of the disaster in Chernobyl. The first is of particular significance for us. One has now quite seriously begun to realize and to comprehend how serious and complicated the problem of relying on nuclear energy is. Second, it is now much more clearly understood how serious the possible repercussions of relying on nuclear energy may be from the viewpoint of organizing the country for defense.

U.S. Corn More Dangerous Than Chernobyl Fallout

LD111421 Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Belgrade May 11 TASS — The danger posed by the infected corn that was imported by Yugoslavia from the United States is much greater than the danger for the Yugoslav people coming from the accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant. This has been stated in a TANJUG interview by Academician Pavel Savic, a well-known Yugoslav scientist.

The doses of radiation to which we are being subjected cannot be dangerous to anyone, he continued. The accident at the Chernobyl atomic power plant should not become the reason for giving up further construction of atomic power plants. P. Savic described the ban imposed by the EEC leaders on the import of Yugoslav farm produce by the common market countries as absolutely unjustified.

Milk Consumption 'Rapidly Increased' Last Week

LD121301 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1211 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, May 12 (TANJUG) — In the second half of the last week the buying and consumption of milk in Yugoslavia rapidly increased and virtually reached the level prior to the Soviet nuclear part Chernobyl disaster. In some cases dairies are even forced to lower orders for milk.

At the moment the market supply in Yugoslavia with milk and dairy products is good, says General Director of "Mlekosim" Associated Enterprises Tomislav Gitric. Only sheep and goat milk and dairy products made of this particular type of milk are still in short supply because sheep and goats feed on grass and leaves. All milk and dairy products sold in shops have been checked, and thus any possibility of the presence of radioactive particles is ruled out.

Daily checks of milk samples are carried out in specialized laboratories of institutes and agricultural faculties in all Yugoslav republics and provinces.

Satisfactory Physicals for Workers Near Chernobyl

LD122131 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1926 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 12 (TANJUG) — Workers of the Yugoslav building enterprise Komgrap of Belgrade continue work on the construction of a steel plant in the Soviet town of Zhlobin, some 150 km from the stricken Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

A team of doctors from Belgrade has examined all 570 workers who were in the area at the time of the Chernobyl accident, it was announced today. The results were satisfactory, since no health problems that could be linked to the nuclear disaster were found.

Radiation Levels Fall; Preventive Measures Lifted
LD122147 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1737 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Belgrade, May 12 (TANJUG) — Measurements of the radiation level in Yugoslavia since May 7, when the latest recommendations and preventive measures were announced, have shown that the level of radioactivity has dropped considerably, so that restrictions imposed earlier can be lifted, the Yugoslav Committee for Labour, Public Health and Social Security announced today.

Milk and dairy products sold in shops may be used by all sections of the population, and so can fruit and vegetables after being washed with running water. The preventive measures which have been in force were timely and efficacious. French expert on protection from ionization and member of the international commission on radiation protection, Henri Joumment, who is in Yugoslavia at the moment, agrees with this.

Radiation level in the air in southeastern Yugoslavia averages somewhat below 40 microroentgens per hour. All waters in the Republic of Serbia are fit for use. The concentration of iodine 131 in the air has dropped considerably in the west of the country as well and has been measured at 0.04 becquerel per one cubic metre of air. The basic radiation level is also falling and today measured 48 microroentgens per hour in this region.

Radiation is nearing its normal values in central Yugoslavia as well and today measured 48 microroentgens. Fruit, vegetable and milk tests show that radiation is below the set level and standards prescribed by the World Health Organization and that these products are fit for human consumption.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Travel Advised Against in Affected Areas

AU121637 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpts] Brussels, May 12 (AFP) — The European Economic Community Monday advised against travelling and consumption of certain foods in northern Poland, Lithuania, Belorussia and the western part of Ukraine, where the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident occurred on April 26.

All 12 foreign ministers of the EEC adopted a statement which said that travel in these parts should be avoided "unless it is absolutely necessary." People who do travel in the region "should continue to avoid fresh milk and free range eggs", it said. Fresh vegetables "should preferably be avoided" but in any case they should be washed and peeled, the statement said.

The recommendation on food also applies to Romania, "where weather patterns have meant that contamination is somewhat greater than in the surrounding area," the statement said.

Farm Products 'Seriously Hit' by Consumer Concern

HK110702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 11 (AFP) — Sales of Western European farm products such as milk, meat and fresh vegetables have been seriously hit by the continuing consumer and government concern about the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

In West Germany and Italy, where consumer anxiety has been high, sales of farm produce have plunged. France, where consumers have been relatively indifferent, has suffered a big drop in farm exports. The relative boom in long-conservation products has not assuaged European farmers' losses. Denmark has expressed fears that the United States and Japan could go as far as suspending imports of certain European foodstuffs.

The union for the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade of the European Economic Community asked EEC farm ministers Friday to "urgently agree on community-wide measures" to combat the crisis facing the industry.

The union said the market was suffering not only from "great insecurity" among consumers, but also from protective measures taken separately by EEC countries, which had affected intra-community trade.

The EEC has banned a wide range East [as received] European imports until May 31 because of possible radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The ban includes fresh meat, fruit, vegetables and dairy produce, and livestock.

France, which banned on Friday certain food imports from Eastern Europe ahead of the EEC vote for joint action, is, along with Britain, one of the only Western European countries not to have taken measures on the consumption of domestic milk and fresh vegetables.

Bonn has warned West Germans not to eat greens or drink milk, and has advised farmers to keep cattle in the stable. In Bavaria, sales of fresh milk have dropped 60 per cent since the warning, contributing to losses for Bavarian farmers of around 200 million marks (85 million dollars), the West German farmers federation has said.

In the Netherlands, fresh fruit and vegetables are piling up in refrigerated warehouses, at an estimated loss of several million guilders a day for Dutch growers (one guilder equals 2.6 dollars).

The Italian Government is demanding health certificates on goods entering the country, leading to complaints from France and Sweden that Rome is unnecessarily hindering passage of their exports. Pregnant women and children under 10 in Italy are not allowed to drink fresh milk, and farmers are not allowed to give fresh feed to their cattle.

The reaction of Italian consumers has been extreme. They have forsaken potatoes and tomatos, which are not on the danger list, and have completely bought up supplies of long-life milk and frozen vegetables. Prices for these goods have shot up, leading to criminal investigations on fraud and speculation.

In Denmark, prohibitions on the grazing of 900,000 dairy cows have reduced farm revenues by an estimated five to seven million krone (around 700,000 dollars) a day.

Provisional Ban of Some E. Europe Foods Imposed

AU121859 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 12 (AFP) — The 12 countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) Monday decided to impose a provisional ban on certain food imports from seven Eastern European countries, Community sources said here.

They said the EEC foreign ministers meeting here also agreed to respect free trade in produce within the community.

The ministers, who met here to examine the effects of the Soviet nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, agreed that the suspension would remain in effect until May 31 on fresh food products from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. They further committed themselves to lifting barriers to trade in fresh produce within the EEC, which reflect very different national standards of radioactivity tolerance, sources added.

AUSTRIA

USSR Asks For Tunnel Construction Experts

AU121358 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 10 May 86 p 3

[Excerpts] Moscow/Vienna — Now tunnel construction experts from Austria are to fight the nuclear conflagration in Chernobyl from below: Yesterday the Soviet authorities asked the Ministry of Trade in Vienna to name the best experts in this field. Indeed, the Austrian tunnel construction technique enjoys an

excellent reputation — as is proved by large-scale international orders.

The Soviet request for tunnel construction experts confirms the fears of leading nuclear energy experts in the West: The melted reactor core has burnt through the concrete fundament and is sinking into the earth.

Traces of Plutonium Found in Vienna's Air

AU130907 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 13 May 86 p 10

[Report by Peter Strasser and Christian Hauenstein]

[Excerpt] New measurements have now found another radioactive element in Vienna that is set free in nuclear fission. A student and research team of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of Vienna University have found traces of plutonium in the air. Plutonium is poisonous and particularly dangerous to man. It mainly affects the lungs. The Nagasaki bomb, for instance, consisted of this material.

Professor Thomas Schoenfeld, the head of the research team, said: "The concentration of the poison, however, is very small and not dangerous in any way. After the nuclear tests in the 1960's far higher values of plutonium were measured here than today." Cesium and strontium, two other elements that were set free by the Chernobyl reactor disaster, currently have the same concentration in our air as in the 1960's.

FRANCE

Government Criticized for Radioactivity Silence

AU121205 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 12 (APF) — The French Government, under bitter press attack for its silence on the effects of the Soviet nuclear disaster, today set up a national information office to dispense data on radioactivity on French territory.

The French press has blamed the government, particularly Environment Minister Alain Carignon and Industry Minister Alain Madelin, for not having warned that radiation from the Chernobyl plant in the Ukraine had reached France.

"The government lied," said the leftist daily, *LIBERATION*, asking whether the French were to be treated like children. Several papers ran the headline, "Radioactive Lie."

The French learned only Saturday, in anti-nuclear demonstrations in many areas, that the April 26 Chernobyl disaster had sent a radioactive cloud over parts of their country, raising radiation levels to as much as 400 times normal.

The socialist daily, *LE MATIN*, cast suspicion on the future credibility of French scientists who had assured the French population that their health was not endangered by Chernobyl radiation.

Pierre Pellerin, head of the French Central Service for Protection Against Ionizing Rays (SCPRI), said all Chernobyl information at the service's disposal had been relayed to the press. Radioactive levels measures "did not justify health counter-measures," said the SCPRI.

Based on the SCPRI conclusion, supported by the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the French Government issued no health warning, the SCPRI said.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Government Declares Entire Country 'All-Clear'

LD121425 Hamburg DPA in German 1337 GMT 12 May 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, 12 May (DPA) — The Federal Government today announced a radiation all-clear for the entire country, even if soil readings had not yet gone back to normal everywhere. Friedhelm Ost, the government spokesman, told the Federal press conference that all readings permit normal living and food habits.

Chancellor Kohl Views Consequences of Chernobyl

DW091204 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1100 GMT 9 May 86

[Announcer-read report intersected with clip from Chancellor Kohl's recorded statement in Neu-Isenburg on 9 May]

[Text] According to Chancellor Helmut Kohl the reactor accident in the Soviet Union does not endanger the FRG population. The Federal Government has adopted the precaution recommendations of the radiation protection commission, because it would be better in the long run to do too much rather than too little. Addressing the ADAC [General German Automobile Club] general meeting in Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt, Kohl further said that those who had tried to make the citizens feel insecure by the precaution measures just wanted to profit politically from the people's anxiety.

[Begin recording] What we need now certainly is not some campaigns but composure and determination. The reactor accident of Chernobyl must not remain without consequence. We in the FRG continue adhering to the principle that the health and safety of our citizens rank absolute priority over all other considerations. Here in the Federal Republic we demand in the construction of nuclear power installations safety standards which are unmatched in the world. We will muster our whole strength to back the demand that other countries must not lag behind the standards which we require -- a matter that will also be a topic of the Bonn cabinet meeting today. Reactor safety also belongs on the agenda of the East-West dialogue. We expect the Soviet Union to take farther-reaching safety precautions. [end recording]

Kohl continued to say that the consequences of Chernobyl cannot be a renunciation of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the FRG because of neglects in another country. What rather mat-

ters is that reactor safety must become the supreme commandment for all countries.

Kohl Writes to Gorbachev About Nuclear Safety

DW121050 Hamburg WELT AM SONNTAG in German 11 May 86 p 3

[Report signed H.V./SCHE:"Kohl Will Send Letter to Gorbachev on Tuesday"]

[Text] Bonn — Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants to ask Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev in a personal letter to support efforts by the Federal Government to convene a conference of all 26 countries operating nuclear power plants. The conference would take place in Bonn.

In the letter, to be sent on Tuesday, Kohl asks the Kremlin chief to eventually give the FRG, as one of the "neighbors mainly affected" by the reactor accident, all the information about what really happened in Chernobyl. Kohl expects "understanding" from Gorbachev so that Bonn can decide on longer-term supply measures for the people "when the Moscow government provides full information about the fallout from the accident."

At the Bonn conference planned by Kohl, two decisions are envisaged:

1. Adaptation of security standards of all power plants to the level of German reactors.
2. A common commitment that in all future breakdowns, immediate, true, and timely information will be provided by the country involved in the accident.

When SPD candidate for chancellor Johannes Rau demanded at the SPD economic congress in Hamburg long-term abandonment of nuclear energy by the FRG, Hermann Rappe, SPD deputy and head of the chemical workers union, said that for him "abandonment is out." Gerhard Schroeder, SPD candidate in the Lower Saxony Landtag elections, announced that in this election the SPD will be the "executor of the will" of the vast majority of the people to abandon nuclear energy.

The [CDU/CSU] Young Union demanded the dismissal of Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann (CSU). Chairman Christoph Boehr accused the minister of having first said that there was no danger, but that later more and more contradictory measures were taken to avert danger.

Genscher Calls for Cooperation in Wake of Chernobyl

LD111344 Hamburg DPA in German 1311 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpts] Bonn, 11 May (DPA) — Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP), Federal foreign minister, has described the reactor accident at Chernobyl as a warning sign for the whole world to cooperate. In an interview (RIAS Berlin) today (Sunday), Genscher stated that mankind had become a survival community. The new technologies required the cooperation of states. The East would also recognize this.

Genscher demanded a better exchange of information, the setting of minimum standards for atomic power stations, and mutual help in nuclear accidents. He appealed to the Soviet Union to remedy the deficiency of information which still existed. Going beyond this, he called upon Moscow to cooperate in disarmament matters. This year afforded the opportunity to discuss all questions of disarmament at the various negotiating tables.

GREECE

RIZOSPASTIS Interviews Arbatov on Chernobyl

NC111659 Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek 11 May 86 P 3

["Exclusive" interview granted to *RIZOSPASTIS* by Georgiy Arbatov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and director of the USA and Canada Institute; place and date not given]

[Text] [Question] Western mass media accuse the Soviet Union of not informing the public about the Chernobyl accident right away. What do you have to say?

[Arbatov] What took place required that we check the facts carefully and that we collect reliable information based upon a true reading of the station's control instruments. It appears that the accident created a situation around the power station that hampered investigation into the causes of this unforeseeable calamity.

First of all, we had to think of saving the people who were directly threatened. Moreover, investigation into the causes of such an unusual accident is not a simple matter. We must not forget that to this date the Americans have not yet investigated the true causes of the Challenger tragedy.

The necessary briefing of the IAEA representative was undertaken immediately after the first official government announcement. We invited IAEA Chairman Hans Blix to Moscow without delay. I would like to remind you that the United States informed the IASA about the Three Mile Island accident a month after it happened. I stress this because certain people in the West have launched unprecedented propaganda. This attack as a result of the accident is a manifestation of unprecedented hatred against the Soviet Union. We are witnessing a premeditated campaign designed to create a state of hysteria among people. This is not right.

Geoffrey Howe, the right-wing foreign minister of Great Britain, has made clear that it is unacceptable for a tragedy to be used for anti-Soviet propaganda.

The Chernobyl accident is a sad event. The world, however, has come to know 151 such accidents. From 1971 to 1984 alone there have been accidents in the nuclear power plants of 14 countries (aside from the United States).

We must draw the proper conclusions from these accidents and make the operation of nuclear power plants throughout the world safer. We must guard against the unforeseeable. To use these unpleasant incidents to fan enmity among people is base and

dishonest.

[Question] Does the level of radioactivity threaten neighboring countries? What measures are being taken to reduce the danger?

[Arbatov] Soviet scientists cannot possibly have the facts about the level of radioactivity in Scotland, Wales, northern Norway, or Japan, for the very simple reason that they are quite distant from the Soviet Union. In Kiev, which is 130 kilometers from Chernobyl, radioactivity levels do not exceed limits that in practice are safe for humans.

These levels are high in the area of the accident. It is for this reason that it has been closed and the necessary measures are being taken. Measuring the radioactivity levels is a purely technical matter. I am not an expert. I am, however, in a position to know that the Soviet Atomic Energy Commission is keeping the IAEA informed at all times.

Logic dictates that we adopt all necessary measures in order to minimize the accident's aftereffects. Soviet scientists, equipped with special instruments, recently arrived in Poland and Romania.

You see, the level of radiation is not constant. It depends on distance, the location of the accident, the direction of the wind, and other factors. The levels of radiation in the surrounding area and at a distance of 100 meters from the reactor were extremely high. We had radioactive fallout in a number of places that were dozens of kilometers away, and readings that were slightly above normal at a distance of 100 km. I do not believe that the inhabitants of neighboring countries were exposed to any greater danger than those people living more than 100 km from the scene of the accident.

Naturally, it is difficult to predict what the level of radiation will be in Japan or some other distant point. However, we do know the effect that American, British, and Chinese nuclear tests in the atmosphere have had on the level of radiation in our country. The same is true of underground nuclear tests.

[Question] There are many in the West who are sincerely concerned about the fate of those residing near the scene of the accident. Are the residents of these areas truly aware of the danger? Do they know its scope?

[Arbatov] We are grateful to the thousands who have volunteered bone marrow for transplants and blood for transfusions. We have been touched by these expressions of support, and sincerely accept every form of help, which presupposes honest intentions and goodwill. However, I would like to remind you that only two people died in Chernobyl, and not 2,000, as some had boasted [khirokrotisan]. Only 200 people were hospitalized, and not 100,000 as in India following the blast at the American "Union Carbide" plant. In addition, 47 of these 200 people have already left the hospital.

I would not advise anyone to pay serious attention to, much less believe, the sensationalist Western media, which are trying to sow panic by exploiting the accident. This is exactly what such stations as "Radio Liberty" and "Radio Free Europe," which are financed by the CIA, are doing in their broadcasts to the Soviet Union, Poland, Romania, and other countries.

Based on the real facts, we must say that there was no nuclear explosion or chain reaction at Chernobyl. Similar accidents, accompanied by fires, have occurred at nuclear plants in Britain and the United States, and the situation there was no better than at Chernobyl. Here the danger was felt only by those who were quite near to the scene of the incident, and they were few. We should not forget that the Chernobyl plant has an excellent system for automated production, and that only the night shift was at work at the time. Measures regarding the population were taken immediately, and all those within 30 km were transferred to safe areas well in time. The necessary data is being supplied to Kiev and other towns near Chernobyl.

[Question] One of the most basic obstacles to acceptance by the United States of peaceful Soviet proposals is the matter of controls. Can the Americans have confidence in the USSR when it failed to immediately supply information on the Chernobyl accident?

[Arbatov] The United States is using the Chernobyl accident as an excuse to refuse serious and responsible dialogue on halting the arms race and on disarmament. We consider this interpretation as a serious mistake. This is being skillfully used to divert the world's attention from the main goal: avoiding a catastrophe that could be millions of times more terrible than similar accidents in all the nuclear power stations combined. The planned offensive by the Western press and certain Western governments, as a result of Chernobyl, is hypocritical and insincere. Once again, it demonstrates the goal of certain specific circles that try to slander the USSR, to undermine confidence in it, and to present it as an untrustworthy partner. All this is done in order to justify a policy supporting a continuation of the arms race.

The Soviet Union is against any nuclear danger, including the danger arising from accidents in peaceful nuclear power plants. The Chernobyl accident gave us another lesson on interdependence in modern civilization under conditions of rapid technological progress.

Let us remember acid rain, the millions of deaths in transportation accidents, as well as the threat of nuclear war, which hangs over humanity.

The world is living in the presence of 50,000 nuclear warheads. It lives under the threat of NATO delivering the first nuclear strike. At the same time, is not humanity informed about nuclear explosions in Nevada and the islands of the Pacific Ocean? Is it not informed about the dozens of accidents in the course of implementing military nuclear technology, as well as the two accidents on U.S. nuclear submarines? However, the supply of information in itself does not solve the problem.

Humanity will be rid of this grave concern and it will be able to calmly devote itself to basic issues, if it truly believes that the atom will not create calamities for it.

ARGENTINA

Atomic Commission Chief Says Nuclear Plants Safe

PY090028 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1302 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] San Juan, 8 May (TELAM) — Chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) Alberto Constantini today insisted that it is very difficult and improbable that an accident like the one at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union can happen here, because the security norms recommended by the International Atomic Energy Organization are strictly followed at the Atucha and Embalse nuclear plants. The CNEA chairman said that the cost of production at the Russian nuclear plants is $200 per kilowatt, while at the Atucha and Embalse plants it is $2,000. The difference is the cost of safety, which is provided by several elements and circuits to shut down the plants in an emergency. That statement was made at the local airport last night when the CNEA chairman arrived to participate in today's celebration of the 14th anniversary of the creation of the National Seismic Warning Institute (INPRES). During his stay in this city, Constantini will give a lecture on nuclear policy at the San Juan Chamber of Commerce.

BAHRAIN

Official Cites Area Countries on 'Natural' Radiation

GF080822 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0735 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Manama, 8 May (WAKH) — Khalid Fakhru, deputy chairman of the Environment Protection Committee in Bahrain and director of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center, has announced that the countries surrounding and close to Bahrain have affirmed that the quantities of radiation monitored in the atmosphere following the leakage of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the USSR are natural and very small quantities and have not necessarily resulted from the Chernobyl reactor. They also do not pose any danger.

Fakhru told the newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ*, published in Bahrain today, that Bahrain does not possess special equipment to analyse radiation but depends on reports by surrounding and near countries such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia regarding the extent of air pollution by nuclear radiation. Fakhru urged the parties responsible for the importation of goods to investigate and follow up constantly the countries from which foodstuffs such as meat, grains, and milk are imported if it is proved that they have been affected by radiation from the Chernobyl reactor.

Professor Reports 'Normal Radiation Levels'

GF110529 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English
11 May 86 p 1

[Excerpt] There has been no increase in radiation levels in Bahrain following the Chernobyl disaster, experiments at the University College have revealed.

An experiment set up last Tuesday by Professor Muhammad Ashraf Husayn and Dr Shawqi al-Dallal has shown normal radiation levels, the scientists revealed. Professor Husayn, a nuclear physicist who was formerly deputy minister of science and technology in Egypt, said there is an ongoing radiation monitoring programme in Bahrain, but it has been stepped up since Chernobyl. "Our monitoring has indicated normal radiation background," he said.

Professor Husayn said there was no need to be concerned about food imports in Bahrain, since the island imports nothing from the Eastern bloc. As a nuclear physicist, Professor Husayn said he believed nuclear energy programmes should be abandoned.

BRAZIL

Experts Say Radioactive Cloud Approaching

PY081855 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Brasilia, 8 May (EFE) — The Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] today announced that the radioactive cloud created by the Soviet Chernobyl nuclear plant mishap could reach South America about 10 May. According to estimates made by experts, the radioactivity will be 100,000 times less concentrated than in the Soviet Union.

At the request of the mines and energy minister, representatives of state organizations that specialize in nuclear affairs, the National Security Council, and the Foreign Ministry met in Brasilia yesterday to assess the Brazilian nuclear program.

After a 1-day meeting, the minister today disclosed that the Angra II nuclear plant, located in Angra dos Reis outside Rio de Janeiro, is operating under strict safety controls.

Sao Paulo University Rector Jose Gondelberg yesterday asked the government to make a more thorough assessment of the Brazilian nuclear program and urged that the use of atomic resources to generate electricity be considered as "the last option."

Almost immediately after the Soviet nuclear accident, the Brazilian aeronautic and CNEN authorities started to measure the radioactivity carried by planes, cargo, and passangers arriving from Europe, at major Brazilian airports. However, no alarming quantity of radioactivity has been found. The tests carried out have revealed the presence of only small quantities of molybdenum, tellurium, iodine, ruthenium, cesium, and lanthanum.

Professor Calls for Changes in Nuclear Program

PY081901 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese
1600 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] USP [Sao Apulo University] Physic Professor (Jose Gutemberg) believes that the Brazilian government will make a big change in its nuclear program in view of the Chernobyl accident. (Gutemberg) noted that the recent evaluation of the program carried out by the special committee [appointed by President Sarney] has been superseded by the Chernobyl acci-

dent. The USP physicist believes that Brazil should not build any more nuclear plants other than the Angra II plant since the country has sufficient alternative energy resources.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Chernobyl Mishap Will Not Affect Nuclear Plans

OW091359 Beijing XINHUA in English 1342 GMT 9 May 86

[" 'Foreign Mishaps Will Not Mar China's Plans for Developing Nuclear Power' " — XINHUA headline]

[Text] Beijing, May 9 (XINHUA) — China will not change its programfor developing the nuclear power industry because of the accident at a Soviet nuclear power plant last month, today's *China Science and Technology Review* reported. Jiang Shengjie, director of the state bureau of nuclear safety told the newspaper that the accident which occurred at the Chernobyl plant north of Kiev, in the Soviet Union, would not affect China's nuclear-power development plans.

The main part of China's first nuclear power station, in Zhejiang Province, is expected to be completed this year and the country is planning to set up more nuclear plants in Guangdong and Jiangsu Provinces in the near future. Jiang said the safety measures at the Soviet station were "not ideal", because its graphite-moderated reactor was not adequately housed, considering its size.

Chinese scientists have been closely observing the development of foreign nuclear power stations, according to Jiang, a noted nuclear physicist in China. China will use cold water instead of graphite to slow down radiation and cool the reactors of its nuclear power stations. This is acknowledged as a much safer cooling system by scientists, he said.

This system will be applied at the Daya Bay station in Guangdong. Water will be pumped into the reactor core under great pressure. The reactor core of plant will be housed in three covers designed to prevent the release of radioactive gas. The inner covers will consist of zirconium alloy cladding and the outer one will be a 0.9-meter thick, concrete-walled containment building. Such protective structures have proved safe at the 42 nuclear generators built by France over the past 25 years, he said.

Military Scientist on Nuclear Power Development

HK100616 Hong Kong TA KUNG PAO in Chinese 10 May 86 p 1

[Special dispatch from correspondent Kung Shuangyin: "Qian Xuesen Talks on Developing Nuclear Power"]

[Text] Newly elected CPPCC Vice Chairman and well-known scientist Qian Xuesen said today that the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union would not affect China's development of nuclear power. He said that the development of nuclear energy is a firm principle of China. Qian Xuesen made these statements this afternoon when answering questions raised by foreign correspondents assigned to Beijing at a meeting held by the All-China Journalists' Association.

When asked how China was affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union, Qian Xuesen said: All people over the world are very concerned about nuclear power plants. Whenever there is an accident, people are inclined to add some emotional factors into their consideration.

We shall develop nuclear power with caution and we shall carefully sum up the experiences of all countries in the world in this respect. In other words, we must collect the data on different situations for scientific analysis before making our decisions.

On the activities of protests against nuclear tests in Xinjiang, which took place in Beijing several months ago, Qian Xuesen said: China pays close attention to the impact of nuclear tests on people living in surrounding areas. As far as I know, in our development of the nuclear industry in the past 30 years, the casualties caused by the tests have been very, very minimal. The people understand when we tell them this fact.

On the visit of Chief of Staff Yang Dezhi to the United States and his aim of buying advanced military technology from the West, Qian Xuesen said: In the area of national defense, China first relies on its strength. Under no circumstances should China arm its forces by depending on imported weapons.

However, China is now implementing the policy of opening up to the outside, and we have to learn from the people of the world. We have to use the advanced technology that we have learned so we can produce things of our own. As for the import of military technology, it is not a matter of wishful thinking. This is a very painstaking issue for Chief of Staff Yang. It depends on the opposite side.

He also said: The most arduous task is that we must accomplish the modernization of national defense. On this issue, we must always bear in mind that we still have a relatively strong technological force. In the late 1950's, our country decided to develop and master the technology of atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, missiles, and satellites. All these were high technology at that time and who helped us? Nobody! We just started from scratch. It was just by starting from that zero base that China's technological personnel mastered these types of high technology.

Therefore, China's technological personnel are full of confidence. They can fulfill all tasks no matter how arduous they are. He added: I do not mean that we should not import advanced technology. What I mean is that if you do not sell, we shall work on our own. This is called acting independently and taking initiative in one's own hands, as well as self-reliance.

GHANA

Daily Criticizes U.S. Gloating Over Chernobyl

AB090835 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* says that nowhere is the game in the East-West superpower politics as transparent as in the attempt by the United States to use the accident which occured on Sunday 25 April this year [date as heard] at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union as a propaganda ploy. It says the United States is blowing up the accident as an international crisis and creating fear and insecurity among Western Europeans, especially the neighbors of the Soviet Union.

With indecent haste, the United States has demanded that she should be given the right to make an immediate inspection and investigation on the spot, a demand which the officials very well know that the Soviet Union cannot, in self-respect, allow any such poking and moping around her nuclear installations. [sentence as heard] The *GRAPHIC* wants to know the number of times that the Soviet Union has demanded to go and inspect many serious nuclear accidents in the United States on the pretext that some of the radioactive fallout will reach Mexico or Canada.

The paper says one of the reasons behind the U.S. ploy is that by drumming up an unnecessary outcry, she and her allies hope thereby to distract the world public from her aggression against Libya. It is also designed to make us here in Africa forget U.S. support for apartheid South Africa and her funding of bandits and mercenaries like Jonas Savimbi and Holden Roberto. The *GRAPHIC* believes that the world has not forgotten the condemnation of U.S. nuclear blasts in Nevada in recent weeks and it has not forgotten that between 1971 and 1984, there were about 151 similar incidents in 14 other countries, mostly NATO countries.

The paper agrees that there has been a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union. It is also a fact that it is an accident against which nobody is guaranteed safety, but to blow it out of all proportion puts it in the realm of fiction. What the world is interested in, since the United States and the USSR both have stockpiles of these destructive weapons, is for them to draw the conclusions that can prevent future accidents, and not to gloat shamelessly over the misfortune of the USSR to score a point in an East-West game.

ISRAEL

USSR Delegation Arrives, Comments on Chernobyl

TA081921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] A Soviet delegation arrived in Israel a short while ago, on the the 41st anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany. The delegation is the guest of the Israel-USSR Friendship Movement. Hagay Hitron broadcasts from Ben-Gurion Airport:

It transpires that a member of the delegation, Alexander (Novgrodov) is an Orientalist who speaks Hebrew. Here is his reaction to our request for an update on the situation in Chernobyl.

[Begin (Novgrodov) recording] The latest thing about Chernobyl is that the situation there is growing calmer, is becoming more normal. I think there are no grounds for all sorts of exaggerations, the likes of which we heard in Moscow as well as on the way here. [end recording]

Israel To Halt Radiation Tests Due to Low Levels

TA081216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Within the next few days the frequent tests of radiation levels in Israel will stop. The tests were initiated last week in the wake of the Chernobyl reactor disaster. Dr Shmu'el Brenner, Director of the Health Ministry's Institute for Environmental Health Hazards Study, told our correspondent Yaron Enosh that the tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission in the past 2 days showed a level of radiation two to three times lower than that measured in the previous days, when it was already low.

JAPAN

Radioactivity Found on Returning Kiev Tourists

OW051534 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., May 5 KYODO — Forty-five of 123 tourists who had visited Kiev around the time of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in late April were found to be contaminated by radioactivity upon their return here Monday [5 May], according to the science and technology agency. Tests conducted at Narita Airport by the agency's Radioactivity Institute found higher-than-normal levels of radioactivity in the hair and nostrils of 45 tourists returning from the Soviet Union.

The agency said the levels of contamination were not immediately harmful to health, but 15 of the travelers whose levels read some 25 to 35 times the natural level needed further checks. Some 100 pieces of baggage and clothing of the tourists were also found to have been exposed to radioactivity, apparently from the Chernobyl accident. Some of the contaminated items will be kept in the Institute in Chiba until the radioactive levels go down, an Institute official said.

The 15 tourists with abnormally high level of radioactivity underwent the further examinations at the institute, spending the whole day there. The agency official said the levels of radioactivity of the 15 tourists were found not harmful Monday night after elaborate examinations. The 123 tourists, in four touring groups, and including 22 foreign residents of Japan, arrived at the airport Monday morning by three separate Aeroflot flights. Some of the groups had entered Kiev April 28, just after the presumed date of the accident, while others reportedly travelled by train from Moscow to Kiev April 30.

A 72-year-old Tokyo resident, who was found to have a high level of radioactivity in the hair, said, "I feel uneasy, though the

examiner said I don't have to worry if I wash my hair." He criticized the tourist agency and the Japanese Embassy in Moscow for not providing information earlier so they could cancel the Kiev visit.

For another Tokyo resident, 60, it was the second exposure to radioactivity. He was in the outskirts of Hiroshima at the time of the atomic bombing of the city in 1945. He said the tourist company informed the tourists of the accident April 30. He said the majority of the tourists had decided to continue the trip, saying "We have come this far so why don't we go on?" though a few expressed fears.

The morning's tests were watched by Yohei Kono, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, who hurried to Narita Airport for the inspection.

Visiting Kovalenko Denounces U.S. 'Propaganda'

OW081237 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO — A high-ranking Soviet Communist Party officer accused the United States Thursday [8 May] of trying to politically cash in on an accident at a Soviet nuclear power plant late last month.

Ivan Kovalenko, deputy head of the party International Affairs Department now on a visit to Japan, said in an interview here that the accident at Chernobyl near Kiev was local and limited in scale. Kovalenko, describing the Chernobyl disaster an unfortunate accident, said Western countries, particularly the United States, have promoted an anti-Soviet propaganda as if the accident was a global incident.

The Soviet Union is undertaking an intensive investigation into the cause of the disaster and will take stricter safety measures on nuclear power plants, he said. Kovalenko affirmed an official Soviet announcement that two people were killed and 197 others injured, saying all the injured except 18 in serious condition have left hospital. The Kremlin officer said there was no adverse effects on human health near the power plant.

Commenting on a Tokyo summit statement on terrorism, Kovalenko said the seven major advanced democracies took international terrorism as an excuse to condemn any national liberation movement. The United States, Japan, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Canada adopted the antiterrorism statement accusing Libya of sponsoring and supporting international terrorism.

Kovalenko was negative about an early second superpower summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, saying it is impossible in view of present circumstances. But he added that the U.S.-Soviet summit, second following the one in November in Geneva, is still on a Soviet schedule.

Moscow will welcome an early visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe to the Soviet Union, Kovalenko said. It is up to Abe himself to decide when to visit Moscow, he said. In a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Tokyo last January, Abe agreed to visit the Soviet Union this year.

Agency To Check East European Food For Radiation

OW090615 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO — Samples of foodstuffs and soil from Eastern Europe and Scandinavia are to be brought to Japan to check the effect of the recent Soviet nuclear power plant accident, a cabinet minister said Friday [9 May]. Yohei Kono, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, made the announcement following a cabinet meeting.

He said his agency will collect food and soil from the countries concerned with the cooperation of the foreign ministry. The Japanese Embassy in the Soviet Union had earlier sent to Tokyo samples of water, milk, vegetables and soil that it collected. Kono said the government will make continuous studies of the items. He also said the government will send medicines and milk to Japanese nationals abroad if requested to do so.

JORDAN

Minister on Steps to Ensure Radiation-Free Imports

JN101520 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1416 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Amman, 10 May (PETRA) — Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply, has asserted that the ministry, in cooperation with all competent government bodies, has taken all necessary precautions to guarantee that imported foodstuffs are free of radiation. He said the measures taken stipulate that the importers of fresh meat for the Ministry of Supply should attach an official certificate issued by government sources in the country of origin to every shipment, confirming that the meat is free of nuclear radiation.

Regarding frozen meat and fish as well as dairy products imported by the private sector, all those who import them from countries neighboring the nuclear radiation zone should provide an official certificate with every shipment confirming it is free of radiation.

The supply minister asserted that the ministry, out of its complete concern for the citizens' safety, is conducting the necessary tests on all shipments of foodstuffs imported to Jordan in cooperation with the specialized technical bodies in the Royal Scientific Society to ensure they are safe for human consumption and free of any traces of nuclear radiation.

Imported Meat Tested; Free of Radiation

JN111441 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 11 May 86

[Text] Amman, 11 May (PETRA) — The minister of supply, in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society Laboratories, has conducted laboratory tests on imported meat.

The Ministry of Supply under secretary has said that laboratory

examinations confirmed that the imported meat was free of any harmful nuclear radiation. He explained that meat importers provided certificates of origin stating that the meat was free of any radiation harmful to citizens' health.

LEBANON

Food Imports From 7 East European Countries Banned

NC101950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Lebanon has placed an indefinite ban on the import of foodstuffs and consumer goods from seven East European countries because of the possibility of radioactive contamination.

At the end of a meeting of officials from the Ministries of Health and Economy, which was also attended by specialists from the American and Lebanese Universities, a statement was issued containing the following points:

1. An indefinite but temporary ban has been placed on the import of foodstuffs and consumer goods, especially meat, fish, milk, milk products, vegetables, fresh and canned fruit, as well as grains and their derivatives, from these countries: Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Soviet Union, Romania, and Poland.
2. Those goods which have already entered Lebanon will be inspected and tested to determine if they are free of radioactive materials.
3. The necessary measures will be taken to destroy any contaminated goods.
4. The competent departments of both ministries are asked to implement this decision.

PHILIPPINES

Chernobyl Radioactive Fallout Level 'Minimal'

HK091315 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 9 May 86 p 1

[Text] Radioactive fallout from the damaged Soviet nuclear reactor may now have reached the Philippines, but the level is minimal and poses no harm to public health, the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) said yesterday.

PAFC Commissioner Manuel R. Eugenio said a slight increase in radiation levels in the ambient environment was noted recently by PAEC monitoring team, indcating that fallout from the damaged Soviet reactor is of minimal level such that "no harm to public health is expected," he said in a press statement.

He said direct radiation measurements using gammameters in the Metro Manila area showed an increase in external doses from an average value of about five microroentgens per hour to about seven microroentgens per hour.

This increase in exposure dose is not considered alarming considering that the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCLEAR), in its 1982 report, has estimated the dose due to natural sources of radiation in areas of "normal" background to be about 7.5 microroentgens per hour, Eugenio said.

TAIWAN

Measures Ordered Against Chernobyl-Type Accident

OW081143 Taipei CNA in English 1031 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Taipei, May 8 (CNA) — Premier Yu Kuo-hwa Thursday [8 May] asked the Atomic Energy Council to take appropriate measures to guard against a nuclear accident such as took place recently at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union. The premier also instructed the Energy Council to collect as much information as possible on the Chernobyl incident. If such an accident should happen in a neighboring country, Yu said, AEC should be prepared to deal with it. The premier gave the instructions during a cabinet meeting Thursday morning after hearing a report from Dr. Yen Chen-hsing, chairman of the AEC.